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Draft Caribbean Group Document Under Preparation

FL2406194594 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 2215 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Regional technocrats are expected to attend a meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, to finalize the draft proposal on an Association of Caribbean States, ACS. It is an attempt to expand Caricom's [Caribbean Community] reach in the region. The draft is to be presented to regional leaders at the heads of government conference in Barbados next month. The ACS is to bring together Caricom member states with non-English speaking Caribbean territories and their neighbors on the South and Central American mainland. Trinidadian foreign affairs officials say there is consensus on the main aims and objectives of the ACS, but the Caracas meeting will tackle outstanding issues, such as membership and the administrative structure of the association. The ACS was one of the recommendations put forward by the West Indian Commission. Nicole Huggins tells us more:

[Begin Huggins recording] The formation of an Association of Caribbean States was recommended as a means of expanding the trading options of Caricom states, and also as a way of inserting Caricom into the evolving hemispheric bloc. Local foreign affairs officials seem to believe that the leaders of the countries involved have the political will to bring the idea to reality. Three meetings have been held this year in Jamaica, Dominica, and Mexico. The final meeting on the draft proposal is carded for Caracas.

There seems to be consensus on the main aims and objectives of the ACS: the creation of a larger area for economic relations, foreign policy coordination, and technical cooperation. But key issues such as the size, structure, and location of a secretariat are still to be worked out. A method of funding the ACS is yet to be defined, and in a region encompassing independent and nonindependent territories, membership procedures are still being discussed.

One major departure from the Caricom Treaty is for ACS members to have greater flexibility in choosing to be part of an ACS project. This differs significantly from the Caricom Treaty, which requires all member states to agree for almost anything to be attempted.

If the ACS gets off the ground, it could be the vehicle for which Caricom countries have been looking to bring their small economies closer to those of their larger Caribbean and Latin American neighbors. But with that comes a challenge, according to some regional experts, to ensure that Caricom is not swallowed up by its own creation. [end recording]

Cuba

Robaina: Embassy Occupants Seek Asylum in U.S.

PA2506225894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2112 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Havana, 25 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina reported today that the more than 150 Cubans who have occupied the German, Belgian, and Chilean diplomatic missions over the past month have asked to travel to the United States.

The occupants, of which only 73 remain in the Belgian ambassador's residence and 21 in the German Embassy, discontinued their efforts to travel to the countries whose missions they invaded, the Cuban foreign minister asserted.

Robaina told almost 200 U.S. citizens, who came to Cuba as part of a campaign to challenge the Washington government's prohibition against U.S. citizens' travel to the island, about the occupation of diplomatic missions. He said the U.S. Interests Section in Havana has denied 40,000 visas to Cubans who had their documents in order and wanted to visit the United States this year.

"We could add the almost 150 Cubans in the embassies to those 40,000 because they would not have acted by force if they knew they would achieve their objective through regular mechanisms," Robaina said.

Cuba and the United States have a valid immigration agreement, which was signed in 1987. The agreement stipulates that Washington will grant up to 20,000 entry visas to Cuban citizens every year. In reality, however, it only grants approximately 1,500 every year.

Robaina confirmed the Cuban Government's position that it will not authorize the people who occupied foreign missions by force to leave the country. [passage omitted]

Reiterates Position on Occupations

PA2606015594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jun 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina reiterated the Cuban Government's position to deny departure permits for people who forcibly occupy foreign missions. He also denounced foreign encouragement of the actions.

The Cuban foreign minister made the statements during a meeting with members of the Freedom To Travel group, a U.S. group that challenges their country's laws by visiting Havana.

Robaina told the visitors that all those who occupied the Chilean Consulate had already left and that 21 persons remain at the German Embassy and another 73 at the Belgian ambassador's residence. The foreign minister said that while some people are resorting to actions like this, the U.S. Interest Section has denied visas for 40,000 applicants.

Robaina told the members of the Freedom To Travel group, which is made up of some 190 persons from 25 U.S. states, that Cuba has a basic sense of responsibility and that is why it insists that diplomatic missions be protected and not trespassed.

GRANMA Urges Embassy Occupants To Leave

PA2506174194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1432 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, 24 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The nearly 100 Cuban refugees at the Belgian and German diplomatic missions must leave those facilities or "confine themselves for life in what will be a voluntary cell," the official newspaper GRANMA warned today. "No one will ever obtain authorization to emigrate through violence and the violation of Cuban and international laws," the newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party, reiterated.

This Friday, the official newspaper reported the "unconditional" departure of eight persons who entered the Chilean Consulate on 15 June and demanded permission to leave the island. The eight occupants, six men, one woman, and a 12-year-old boy, left the mission at 1730 (2130 GMT) on Thursday in two official Chilean Consulate vehicles, a source at the mission stated.

A Chilean consulate source explained that none of the people occupying the South American mission in Havana had ever been charged with any criminal offense, and their stay in the mission took place without incident.

GRANMA also pointed out that 53 of the Cubans who decided to enter the residence of Belgian Ambassador Paul Vermeirsch on 28 May had changed their minds about "their illegal and irresponsible conduct" and have "returned to their daily lives."

An official spokesman said that "21 persons who occupied the German Embassy on 13 June remain inside, while 72 Cubans remain inside the Belgian mission." Ambassador Vermiersch's home and the German mission are two blocks from each other and are located in the diplomatic district of Miramar, as is the Chilean Consulate. The streets leading to the two diplomatic missions remain closed to vehicles and pedestrians, except for neighbors. Dozens of uniformed police officers and state security agents dressed in civilian clothes provide permanent security throughout the area.

GRANMA also said that the Cuban Government has given "every assurance to representatives of the parties involved to solve the problem." "We reiterate: Future incidents of this type can be prevented only with energy, intelligence, and serenity," the official daily concludes.

Soto Meets Soskovets; Nuclear Plant Discussed

FL2506125894 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Jun 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets has expressed satisfaction with the progress made to establish the international association RosCuba, which consists of Russian and Cuban enterprises. During a meeting in Moscow with Leonel Soto, vice president of the Council of Ministers, Soskovets praised the signing of the statutes of the joint enterprise, which set the required legal basis for the operations of the organization.

A Cuban delegation spokesman said Soskovets believes that the creation of the RosCuba association is an important step in the opening of solid possibilities of economic and trade cooperation between both nations.

Lionel Soto described the quest for trade mechanisms beyond that of state structures as positive. Soskovets and Soto agreed in praising the fulfillment of the accords signed on 24 December when both signed the document forming the association. Soskovets and Soto also discussed the possibility of completing the construction of a nuclear plant in Cienfuegos by creating a joint enterprise.

Minister Notes Caribbean Association's Importance

FL2706020094 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by correspondent Ruben Pino; place and date not given; first paragraph announcer-read introduction—recorded]

[Text] The Association of Caribbean States, ACS, will be formed in July. The new, regional, intergovernmental organization will unite nations with highly diverse political systems and socioeconomic development plans.

[Pino] Over 200 million people on 25 island nations, in Central and South America, and in 12 Caribbean territories will establish diverse ties through the ACS. Could this forum eventually represent a convergence of kindred politics and serve as the voice of the region on international events? If so, what about Cuba's participation?

[Robaina] Any integrationist event inevitably can be considered a forum for political convergence. In some measure, today's economic integration requires assuming certain positions and will intensify, above all, the Caribbean voice at important international events. It is important for us to join the Caribbean, the Caribbean to which we have always belonged and from which they have wanted to pretend to tear us. Depending on how well we get to know each other better and intensify efforts, we will clearly be better prepared to exchange and unite views and to have a stronger economic, political, and social voice. It will be extremely important to present a much more economically, politically, and socially united Caribbean at forums like the United Nations. When I speak of politics, I do not mean similar politics. Integration means that there is no need for identical ideological schemes to join things. We are being allowed to take united stands in the international arena. This clearly establishes a new voice and opens a period for the Caribbean that Cuba modestly asks to join, so that we can learn and modestly contribute whatever we can.

Specialist Hails ACS Formation

FL2406200894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jun 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Omar Morales, a Foreign Ministry specialist, has told PRENSA LATINA that plans to form the Association of Caribbean States, ACS, reflect the spirit of convergence among today's approaches to Latin American integration. Morales said this is very healthy for the hemisphere because it opens the way to a degree of economic unity that will put the hemisphere in a more advantageous position to negotiate with other regional groups in the world.

The ACS will include three regional blocs: the Caribbean Common Market, CARICOM; the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration, SIECA; and the G-3, which includes Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia. Morales also said that heads of state of the member countries will meet in the Barbadian capital on 4 July to establish the ACS, an intergovernmental organization for regional teamwork, consultation, and cooperation.

Pope Rejects U.S. Blockade, Urges Aid

FL2706020794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jun 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] On 25 June, AFP reported from the Vatican that Pope John Paul II has denounced the U.S. blockade and called on international organizations to help Cuba. During a meeting with a delegation of Cuban bishops, the pope encouraged churches and international aid organizations to continue helping to ease the hardships Cuba is experiencing.

Canadian Company Announces Joint Mining Venture

FL2506155494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jun 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] In Toronto, the Canadian (Cherris) Company has announced that it will create a joint enterprise with Cuban Nickel Enterprise for mining nickel and cobalt in Cuba.

The new enterprise includes others that will be directly in charge of the extraction, refining, and global marketing of nickel and cobalt. The Cuban Government has granted the new entity a mining claim comprising more than 60 million tons of iron oxide ore with nickel, with an 80 percent concentration of the reserves tested.

Domestic Trade Ministry To Close Travel Stores

FL2406162194 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0207 24 Jun GMT 94

[Text] Rene Diaz Olivera, vice minister of domestic trade, stated that effective 1 July, stores that sell articles for travel abroad will close down.

Diaz explained that this measure was taken in light of the current shortage of supplies, which became more acute at the end of last year and continues this year. For this reason, stores such as El Baluarte, La Internacional, and Lujos, which sell shoes, clothing, and other goods for travelers, will close down on 1 July. Diaz added that organizations and enterprises with an established clientele will receive a letter giving more details.

Western Army Conducts Moncada II 94-1 Exercise

FL2406144294 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Several Western Army units are conducting the second exercise of the first half of 1994. The exercise is called: Moncada II 94-1.

Division General Leopoldo Cintras Frias, chief of the Western Army, and other high-level officials, witnessed aspects of the cooperation among units. The main briefing was given by Brigadier Gen. Manuel Lastres, with the participation of several members of the General Staff and commanding officers. The exercise also includes the participation of a command and control post of the provincial unified antiair system. This exercise includes tactical firing exercises by tank units in which artillery units, as well as small infantry units, will participate.

The tactical scenario is this: A unit located in a combat training range is put on air alert status following an enemy landing on the southern coast and is ordered to send two tank platoons forward to ward off the attack.

Moments before the beginning of the exercise, Colonel Nelson [not further identified] presented the distinguished service medal to First Lieutenant Luis Enrique Aguirre, an artillery unit commander, for successfully completing diverse missions.

These training exercises continue to be carried out with quality and a minimum of resources thanks to the implementation of diverse initiatives. On 24 June, the Western Army will conduct naval and air maneuvers.

Missile Attacks Featured in Exercise

FL2506165894 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Ground units have successfully participated in the Moncada exercise held by the Western Army. Missile attacks were launched against a landing enemy force. The combat alert did not take the Orden Antonio Maceo Naval Base by surprise. The units deployed and quickly occupied combat positions. The mock battle against some 20 enemy ships only required the use of 50 percent of our forces.

The initial missile attack was launched against the landing boats. Our infantrymen acted calmly and with dedication to attain, in peace, the adroitness war demands. At a speed of over 30 knots, a missile boat launched its weapons and returned victorious from its mission.

The Western Army Moncada exercise demonstrated today that the Cuban Revolutionary Navy maintains a high combat readiness and its troops are also a fist of steel against the enemy. This is why it has retained seven years in a row, the Revolutionary Armed Forces's Top Forward Unit status.

Moncada II 94-1 Exercise Concludes

FL2506022294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report by Marieta Cabrera from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The Western Army's Moncada II 94-1 exercise concluded today as an overall part of the command's operation, combat, and political preparation. The exercise sought to prepare general staff and command members to handle troops, as well as to organize the cooperation of regular forces and municipal defense councils in the region defended by the Western Army.

Moncada II 94-1 was based on a series of complex tactical exercises, which included ambushes, airborne landings by the enemy, and joint actions by the regular troops and other types of forces. Today's activities included a naval maneuver at the western base of Cabanas, preceded by maneuvers at the Jejenes shooting range with the participation of land and antiaircraft artillery and support troops. The exercise proved commanders' expertise in the deployment of small units which operate independently, their maneuverability, their accuracy, and efficient fulfillment of missions. Supported by initiatives, troop instruction programs were qualitatively carried out, which helped save materials and improve combat techniques.

Central Army Schedules Weekend Military Exercise

FL2506022494 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Paratrooper landings; land, air, naval, and engineering operations [explotacion]; and special actions will be some of the approximately 180 practical actions within the Vigilant 94 exercises, which the Central Army in Sancti Spiritus will conduct.

The demonstration, scheduled for this weekend, will combine 11 basic tasks for the forces' preparation at command and troop level, something which was previously done separately. Participating personnel come from regular and special troops in the Army, the Territorial Troops Militia, the Cuban Revolutionary Navy, and the Interior Ministry Border Guard Troops. The Vigilant 94 exercise in Sancti Spiritus will confirm the participating structures' combat readiness and will test the small units' ability to carry out joint actions within the unified scouting system.

Territorial Militia Reaches Fund-Drive Targets

FL2406151994 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Pinar del Rio, Havana, Guantanamo, Las Tunas, and Granma Provinces have achieved their annual Territorial Troops Militia [MTT] fund drive targets through worker's salary-allotment donations.

Every province, including the Isle of Youth, has achieved over 80 percent of their MTT goals. The fact that Havana Province reached its annual fund pledge through volunteer work should be highlighted.

The Cuban Workers Federation's report, which is current to May, reveals that the tobacco union is the only one that has completed its MTT fund drive.

Approximately 90 percent of the salary-allotment donations for financing the MTT come from the Revolutionary Armed Forces' civilian workers, commerce, restaurant, sugarcane, metal, electronic, food industry, education, and sports workers.

Electric Plants Maintenance Program Announced

FL2406145394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] This weekend, generator unit no. 3 of the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Electric Plant will go on a 35-day maintenance program in order to reestablish its full capability of 158 megawatts per hour. Electric maintenance and Construction Ministry workers have the necessary resources to conduct the maintenance with the required quality and complete it ahead of schedule. The plant workers are also working to reactivate the 30 megawatts per hour generator unit no. 1, which has been inoperative for three years. Their goal is to make it operational as soon as possible.

On 27 June, workers will also begin an 80-day repair program on the five megawatts per hour unit at the Dionisio San Roman plant, Cienfuegos, which has also been out of service.

'Corrupt' Aspects of Dollar Possession Viewed

FL2506135994 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Commentary by Nestor Nunez from the "First Thing" program]

[Text] The phenomenon of the dollarization of the Cuban economy is leaving its mark at home, and I believe no one with any brains will disagree. I believe this is a necessary side effect. Yet, this does not mean we ought to let it be so, nor lie to ourselves and see the world through rose colored glasses when the street reality is not so.

The truth is that the possession of dollars in the midst of a widespread shortage crisis, such as the current one, opens the door to consumption options, that until now have been rare for the common citizen. And on occasion, this blinds the senses to the point that people put aside important values in order to attain hard currency.

It is a reality, at least that is my opinion. I based this on, among other things, the noticeable increase in prostitution and the transfer of qualified labor force to sectors where attaining hard currency is easier. It does not matter if it means going from being a professional to being a gardener or a chauffeur. Some of these people have told me that the bottom line is that right now a college degree does not get them what four or five dollars—attained in a job with a much lower level of qualification—do.

In diverse ways, this phenomenon continues to spread and corrupt. We must not forget, even for a moment, that there are people who assume certain attitudes forced by the need to, for example, buy a bar of soap or some milk to solve domestic needs. That the person who regularly sells export rum, such as the one that shocked me at the entrance of a shopping store, dressed in the latest fashion, is not the same as the housewife who, nearby, was selling a bottle of a lower quality liquor in order to buy—she told me—some cooking oil. Although their motives are different, both converge on efforts to attain hard currency which as the people say: Opens the door and eases today's difficult conditions.

I believe that this is a necessary side effect. Yet, I believe it is important that this phenomenon be seen in social terms and we should work as fast as possible to find alternatives more closely attuned to our goals to allow people to make a living according to their efforts and contributions, and not on the basis of other harmful criteria.

I believe we are going through a difficult and risky period. Undoubtedly, overcoming today's slump will

leave negative scars on many people as a result, precisely, of the unavoidable steps we have had to take. Among these, the dollarization is one of the most worrisome. Once this bitter economic gulp is over, we will have to charge against the harmful habits and attitudes which this hour is spreading and which has resulted in certain people rendering ludicrous worship to fetishes and mechanisms incompatible with our overall goals.

'Modest Incentives' for Workers Said Meritorious

FL2506154194 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon from the "First Thing" program]

[Text] The fail-safe policy of boosting incentive programs to reward the most efficient workers in certain economic sectors is an invaluable tool of motivation at times when the Cuban family is experiencing acute material shortages in terms of food and services, such as electricity, water, gas, and transportation. It was explained that work incentives were first introduced in selected sectors such as tourism, ports, repairs, electric plants, mining, and the sugar industry to mention a few examples. Given the shortage of resources, the idea of rewarding a greater number of sectors with larger incentives is out of the question. If the resources were available, however, it would be absurd to reward every worker equally regardless of their labor contributions. Although this type of argument is strong enough to not require further explanation, it is logical that those who endure daily limitations will take longer to understand this fail-safe policy.

Independent of the necessary understanding of the people, however, we need to listen to these who call for modest incentives at nonproduction workplaces that do not accrue hard currency. The idea of rewarding the most efficient workers at facilities that are not economically essential has merit if, from a realistic point of view, we acknowledge that some reward or modest services can also play a role while we wait for greater incentives.

It would be good to adopt such a policy in budgeted facilities on the basis of local or provincial initiatives resulting in modest incentives—given their actual value—to meet a number of current expectations. A center not related to production praiseworthy for its efficiency, where management and the union arranges for its workers and their relatives services such as shoe and home appliance repairs, a special lunch, or reservations at a leisure camp, will thereby motivate workers demoralized by the loss of their purchasing power. Other motivational formulas could stem from initiatives from sectors with unique characteristics such as health and education, where it is imperative to find mechanisms to reduce the personnel exodus. Management and the unions face an unexplored path they must now undertake. The effort, however, will be worth its while if simple incentive formulas, which do not burden the payroll budget, are found.

'Straight Talk' on Differentiated Incentives

FL2406201194

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1600 GMT on 24 June carries a 15-minute edition of its regularly scheduled "Straight Talk" program, with Renato Recio from TRABAJADORES newspaper, and host Osvaldo Rodriguez from BOHEMIA magazine, on the issue of differentiated incentives for diverse sectors of the economy.

Rodriguez opens the debate by stating that he has received many letters on today's issue, some in favor, some against, and others urging further explanation.

Recio states that it is not strange to see disagreements on differentiated incentives or material incentives given for production work. He adds that the people have an "egalitarian point of view" and that this is inadequate. Everyone agrees, however, that the appropriate distribution formula for the Cuban economy is the socialist formula: "Pay each person according to the quantity and quality of his work." He goes on to say that everyone agrees with this but that it is hard to put into practice. Recio adds: "The problem is when it affects someone who is not included among those that contribute the most in quantity and quality of work."

Recio adds that Cuba had not been able to fully apply a labor-incentive formula. He adds: "The situation now calls for a policy of incentives by sectors and individuals. There are other sectors that do not produce, materialistically speaking, but are important, such as the education and health sectors."

Rodriguez states that Cuban society fairly distributes all that there is to distribute but that, unfortunately, this cannot be transferred to the production sector. He adds that some of the letters received mention extraordinary efforts, but do not mention results.

Recio states that Raul Castro has stressed that efforts must be encouraged but only results must be rewarded. He adds: "There is a certain mind-set in Cuba that praises the man that exhausts himself in the effort, is seen uncombed, tired, and is turned into a hero. In a certain sense, heroism requires that exhausting effort, but that is not always synonymous with efficiency."

Recio goes on to say that production must precede distribution and that what little there is is being distributed with egalitarian criteria. The prioritized sectors—tourism, sugar, petroleum, transport, mining, and others—are to be the engines of the Cuban economy and the ones that ought to receive incentives.

Rodriguez points out that sectors involved in garnering currency could be considered prioritized sectors and that

he believes that these incentives are not being utilized correctly. He adds: "I am thinking, for example, of those chain stores called shoppings. Some of the stores distribute equally among their workers what has come to be called a bag, which is no more than a monthly stock of products which are hard to come by in Cuba. This is distributed equally among the workers."

Rodriguez points out the example of the incentive programs implemented in the electric sector, where workers are rewarded for meeting certain standards. He stresses that egalitarian distribution of incentives "is once again dragging us back to the same situation we are trying to fight."

Recio states that to give all workers the same incentive is no incentive. He adds: "I believe incentives must be given within a sector, within a sector to a specific branch, within a branch to a specific enterprise, within certain enterprise to a specific factory, and within a factory to specific workers. I insist on the idea that the same incentive cannot be given to an indirect worker than to a worker involved directly with production." Rodriguez closes by stressing the importance of differentiated incentives to specific workers.

Roundup of Economic Developments

FL2506181194

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored from Havana radio and television sources in Spanish between 18 and 25 June:

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 18 June reports that the Cienfuegos Province Finance Directorate's fine control office collected 1.1 million pesos in 1993. Their collection goal for 1994 is 2 million pesos, 66 percent of which has already been collected.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 21 June reports that the Ministry of Metal Industry reported that than more than 74,000 bicycles were produced during the first five months of the current year. The aim is to exceed 250,000 units since production in Cuba started in 1991. Santiago Delgado, production director of the national organization of bicycles, said those numbers are very encouraging because despite current shortages in supplies, the 20 enterprises involved in production aim to fulfill the commitment of 300,000 bicycles.

Radio Rebelde at 1155 GMT on 21 June reports that the Govenment of India donated a full electric power project to illuminate a rural community of 120 homes in Santiago de Cuba.

Radio Reloj at 1952 GMT on 22 June reports that Pinar del Rio Province is the leader in the sugarcane planting program with 90 percent of the goal fulfilled. The other provinces are lagging behind, thus Pinar del Rio has definite possibilities to meet its planting goals.

Radio Reloj at 1958 GMT adds that Holguin Province has experienced a slight economic recovery during the first five months of 1994. During this period, production revenues were aproximately 306 million pesos, 30 million more than during the same period in 1993.

Radio Reloj at 1959 on 23 June reports that the Basic Cooperative Production Units in Havana have planted 37 caballerias of tubers, vegetables, rice, and beans for self consumption.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 on 24 June reports that Jose Luis Astrolea, president of the hydraulic resources institute, stated in Santiago de Cuba that Cuba currently has 185 minihydroelectric units. Astrolea added that the goal, which is obtainable, is 600 units.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 23 June reports that Bayamo's Farming Sciences Higher Institute and Guerrero State's Autonomous University, Mexico, have extended their cooperation program with the signing of a new cooperation accord.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT adds that Guantanamo Province's Frank Pais contingent will mark its second anniversary by pledging to produce 500,000 million quintals of vegetables.

Cuba Vision Network at 0000 GMT on 24 June reports that following recent rains which affected the sugarcane harvest in Camaguey Province, six mills are currently grinding and workers are fully committed to repair the damage to the sugarcane fields.

Cuba Vision Network at 0000 GMT on 24 June adds that 86 percent of the Cuban merchant fleet is operational despite current limitations. Two years ago, less than 60 percent was operational. Revenue of over 20 million in hard currency was attained by the fleet between January and May. A meeting held in preparation for October's Fourth Merchant Fleet and Port Union Congress focused on efforts to reduce costs and increase efficiency. It was also reported that over 400 crew members are employed in foreign vessels yielding revenue of over $2 million in salaries.

Cuba Vision Network, in the same newscast, adds that the American Freedom to Travel activists who arrived in Cuba in defiance of the travel ban brought along a donation, no figures given, of medicines and school supplies.

Radio Reloj at 0200 GMT on 24 June reports that increased weeding efforts are essential to improve the sugarcane yield. The Sugar Industry Ministry's plans include manually weeding more than 144,000 caballerias in the first half of 1994. It was announced at the 10-day harvest assessment meeting that Holguin Province surpassed its weeding goals and that Camaguey, Granma, and Las Tunas Province have made significant progress in this endeavor.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on June 24 reports that the Spanish Politurs Discount Tourism Agency has doubled

its sale of trips to Cuba during the first five months of 1994 in comparison with the same period in 1993. This means that approximately 3,500 Spanish tourists—of the 14,000 expected in 1994—have already visited Cuba before the peak season in July and October.

Radio Reloj at 0200 GMT on 25 June reports that the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute has granted a $20,000 donation to the Federation of Cuban Women, FMC, to modernize the documentation center of the FMC Cadres School. FMC President Vilma Espin attended the ceremony where the first $10,000 of the donation was issued to the FMC.

Radio Reloj at 0200 GMT on 25 June adds that the six Basic Cooperative Production Units in Nueva Paz Municipality are behind schedule in the spring planting of diverse crops with 20 caballerias planted out of a 49 caballeria program. The delays were due to, among other things, excess humidity in the soil, a shortage of tires, and weeds. Candido Palmero, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana, pointed out that if this situation continues, the planting goal is not going to be met, and added that a Youth Labor Army farm will be created to help with the labor.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 25 June reports that Cuba signed an accord with the UN program for population stability and family planning. The United Nations will contribute over $700,000 and Cuba will contribute over 2 million pesos to the effort. Raul Taladrid praised the UN contribution.

Dominican Republic

Hundreds of Haitians Flee; Foreign Troops Opposed

PA2406193694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1742 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Jun (NOTIMEX)—It has been reported here that hundreds of Haitians are fleeing the country for fear of repression by the military. International commercial flights to Haiti stop at midnight tonight.

Shortly before the deadline set by the United States and Canada, U.S. airlines stopped flying to Haiti in compliance with the extension of the embargo declared by the UN Security Council against the Haitian military government. These measures, together with the cancellation of visas to Haitian businessmen, important civilian officials, and military officers, are designed to force the coupist government to step down and reinstate deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Stanley Schrager, U.S. Embassy spokesman in Port-au-Prince, has confirmed that petitions for asylum from approximately 1,000 Haitians are being reviewed. If the petitions are approved, these Haitians will permitted to travel on chartered flights.

Meanwhile, internal repression is increasing in Haiti. The government of Emile Jonassaint, which has not been recognized internationally, has forbidden foreign journalists to travel outside the Haitian capital.

Today in Santo Domingo, President Joaquin Balaguer voiced his hope that the economic embargo against Haiti will come to an end soon, arguing that the Dominican Republic is having to spend enormous amounts of money to prevent contraband. Balaguer added that his country is strictly complying with the embargo by closely monitoring the border. Nevertheless, he did not rule out the possibility of a few gallons of fuel being smuggled across the extensive border.

Meanwhile, officials of the Balaguer government said they will move to ban the presence of foreign troops on Dominican territory to reinforce the economic embargo against Haiti. Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera Cabral said: "We cannot accept, whatsoever, the presence of foreign troops to reinforce the border."

Herrera Cabral's remarks came into response to President Carlos Menem's offer to dispatch Argentine troops to reinforce the embargo against Haiti. The offer had been made during Menem's meeting with President Bill Clinton in Washington. Two weeks ago, Argentina became a member of the "Friends of Haiti" group, which includes France, the United States, Canada, and Venezuela.

Herrera Cabral said the Dominican Republic is bearing the full financial burden of maintaining troops along the border without the assistance of any international organization.

Haiti

Provisional Government Prepares for Elections

FL2406220294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The Jonassaint government is planning elections. The provisional government issued a press release following a ministerial council meeting on 22 June expressing its determination to make all the necessary arrangements for national elections as soon as possible and in compliance with the concerned institutions. No dates have been set for the elections or for the necessary steps to prepare for the elections.

[Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French at 1030 GMT on 24 June reports: "Government sources have reported that the Jonassaint government will have to summon Permanent Electoral Council members next week to discuss national elections. On 17 June, provisional President Emile Jonassaint said that holding elections is the only honorable way out of the crisis and that elections will prove democracy can come to Haiti. Attorney Mireille Durocher Bertin of the National Coalition agrees and has suggested that a team be organized to open the files necessary for holding elections in Haiti in the next few months."]

Senators React to U.S. Visa, Green Card Suspension

FL2406224094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1030 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report by correspondent Daly Valet]

[Excerpts] Many people might consider U.S. Government officials, both past and present, the leaders of the putschists and the leaders in stalling tactics, following the failure of the Washington and Governors Island agreements. If the United States truly controls everything in Haiti, an important step has been taken with Bill Clinton's latest decisions. This important step has caused many Haitians problems, lavalassian [Aristide partisan] and putschist alike. If you (?doubt that), go to Rue des Miracles and see the Bank of Boston; if you go to Delmas 18, you will see that the Bank of Nova Scotia is closed; if you go to Citibank on Delmas Road, you will see that all its doors are closed. Not one penny is available to the Haitians, regardless of their political positions. Consequently, many people (?are angry). You can visit parliament in the meantime.

The U.S. Government has revoked the green cards and visas of many legislators who set up Jonassaint's de facto government. The visas and the green cards of Thomas Eddy Dupiton, Dejean Belizaire, Bernard Sansaricq, Osny Eugene, and Romel Manigat have been revoked.

Sen. Dupiton says he did not expect the United States to take such a step since he has always considered it a democratic country, a country where all citizens' opinions are respected even though they differ. [passage omitted]

Many Haitians who are used to traveling abroad say that Sen. Sansaricq has many businesses in the United States, so you can imagine his discontent. Sen. Dupiton has relatives, children, and so on. The Artibonite senator admits that he regrets nothing, even though he considers the decision to cancel his green card unjust. [passage omitted]

Not all legislators close to Jonassaint have had their visas revoked. Some of those who have not been hit by the measure, such as Margareth Martin, say, however, they are waiting their turn. This 18 January, legislators protested the fact that many of her Senate colleagues have been hit by the measure because of their political positions. Margareth Martin blames the decision to revoke visas on senators close to President Aristide. Sen. Martin says they are the senators who used to point accusing fingers at legislators who do not side with the president-in-exile:

[Begin Martin recording] It is scandalous that the U.S. ambassador or the U.S. Embassy cancels the immigrant visas of Haitian citizens who support the government. I have yet to receive my letter; I am waiting for it; I am waiting for them. They can revoke my visa and take back their green card. I will stay in my country and help establish democracy. [end recording]

[Signal FM adds in a report in French, during the same newscast: "President Emile Jonassaint's provisional government issued a communique on 23 June noting that foreigners from countries that require Haitian nationals to have visas will be required to have a visa to enter Haitian territory. This measure concerns U.S. citizens and Canadians, who did not need a visa to enter the country before now. The French have been obliged to hold visas for several years, as a sign of reciprocity with Paris. The government communique states that foreigners will have to pay a $50 tax upon arrival at Haitian ports and airports."]

U.S. Banks Pushed To Reopen in 'Next 48 Hours'

FL2406224994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The two U.S. banks operating in Port-au-Prince—First National of Boston and Citibank—closed their doors on 23 June, following U.S. President Bill Clinton's executive order freezing Haitian assets in U.S. banks. These two banks had been operating in Haiti for 20 years and ranked fourth and fifth, respectively, out of the nine foreign banks operating in Haiti. These banks operate under and are subject to Haitian law. A reliable financial source has reported that a judicial injunction compelling them to reopen or to return their customers' assets should reach them in the next 48 hours.

Judge Orders Banks To Reopen

PA2506002794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2219 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 24 Jun (EFE)—Today, Haitian Lower Court Judge Henock Voltaire ordered two U.S. banks, which had closed their doors to the public in view of U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to freeze Haitian citizens' accounts, to reopen on 27 June.

Voltaire issued this decision following a suit filed by the Central Bank of Haiti. This decision affects Citibank and Bank of Boston branches, which on 22 June notified the Central Bank governor of their decision to stop operations. After this measure was implemented, the two banks did not open their doors on 23 and 24 June. Many citizens went to the banks on those two days to try to withdrew money.

Judge Voltaire maintained that these two banks cannot close their doors due to decisions made by the United States; they are subject to Haitian laws because they requested authorization to operate in Haiti. He also pointed out that their arguments do not have merit in Haiti; hence, they will have to reopen. It was reported that the Bank of Boston will open its doors on 27 June. Meanwhile, no Citibank spokesman could be located to respond to Judge Voltaire's decision.

Political observers believe the U.S. objective of implementing financial sanctions to force the military regime to relinquish power has worked against the United States because an anti-American feeling prevails in Haiti.

Meanwhile, operations at the Scotia Bank proceeded as normal, but many people went to this bank to withdraw money, fearing the bank might close its doors to the public.

Business Reaction 'Rather Hostile'

FL2506004694 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELISTE in French 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 2

[By Anais Chavenet. "Haitian Business Sector's Initial Reaction to Latest U.S. Economic Sanctions Rather Hostile"—LE NOUVELLISTE headline]

[Text] Indignation, anger, caustic or furious comment, vague impulses for reprisal: The business sector in Port-au-Prince is not stomaching U.S. President Bill Clinton's latest decision to freeze the assets and property of Haitians and that of legal Haitian institutions and organizations. Tension mounts as a list of the names and addresses of about 300 people, including minors in some big families, who are being targeted circulates throughout the capital.

"My granddaughter is on that list," a well-known attorney says indignantly.

"It is madness," says one banker. "I have nothing to do with those friends right now," he adds.

One citizen believes that Clinton has gone too far, while an attorney denounces the arbitrary nature of the executive order the U.S. head of state signed late on 21 June. "It is the strong hand in its greatest splendor." This U.S. measure reminds him of the practice under the Duvalier regime of a whole family being punished for the actions of one. It is funny to hear the international community talking about rights considering that relations with the international community have been based on force since 30 September 1991, he said.

Boomerang Effect

It is a cold shower: Many of those who are penalized do not show any sign of turning on the military authorities, as the United States expected.

"I will turn on them if they were wrong at 10 percent," says this banker, who thinks that the protagonists on both sides should resign. [sentence as published] He deplores the embargo and does not seem to agree that those who staged the coup d'etat are responsible for it. "They are wasting their time because we have not forgotten Aristide's 'stones in water' and 'give them what they deserve' statements."

A young professional, furious at being penalized, shouted: "If it's a matter of money or my life, I prefer my life; if it's a matter of money or Cedras, I prefer money." He is not ready for upheaval, however. He rages, jumping on the first foreigner he meets. More coldly, his father points out that Clinton's measures "increase the hate for Americans." Reconciliation is impossible with such measures, measures that only serve to set Haitians against one another to the point of civil war.

American Banks Can Just Pack Up

To make things worse, the two U.S. banks in Haiti—Citibank and Bank of Boston—closed their doors today, some observers feel to avoid pressure from their customers. U.S. Marines have reportedly helped secure Citibank. It has already been rumored that the Bank of Boston will reopen its doors on 24 June. It is said that the Bank of Boston has a strong Haitian clientele now at bay. More than one person wonders: Will the checks be cashed?

People are preparing to take legal action to force Citibank and the Bank of Boston, subject to Haitian law, to refund their assets. This possibility was raised in the 14 November 1980 decree, modified by the 14 July 1984 decree, on commercial banks. Article 71 authorizes the Bank of Haiti to relinquish them, especially when they suspend payments. Relinquishment means the state can assume the bank administrators' authority. Article 26 allows the finance minister, on the Bank of Haiti's request, to revoke the authorization under which these banks operate.

One businessman is pleased that he withdrew his assets from the Bank of Boston two years ago. "Both banks can just pack up and leave. Not one lucid Haitian will deposit his money there anymore."

U.S. financial institutions also take a risk. "The U.S. banks are certainly going to lose their customers," an attorney asserts, convinced that the "great fortunes" were safeguarded a long time ago. One analyst points out: "The United States has lost its chance to be considered a land of investment."

Ministry Note: Pro-Aristide Acts 'Null and Void'

FL2406230194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The Foreign Affairs and Cults Ministry has ordered former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his employees not to speak on behalf of the Haitian state or to commit the Republic of Haiti to anything with their signatures. This is how it appears in the Ministry press release, which adds: The Haitian Chancery expresses its most formal reservations over statements and actions by members of the overthrown government, statements and actions that the Chancery considers null and void. The Foreign Affairs and Cults Ministry adds that it has asked the OAS secretary general to pass this information on to its various members and regional institutions for whatever it's worth.

Police Headquarters Sandbagged; Cedras Tours Barracks

FL2406232394 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] An officer accompanying General Cedras has reported that the Army commander in chief toured various military garrisons in the metropolitan area in line with the state of emergency. He told us that the Army chief made it a point of presenting an overall view of the situation to the officers and the soldiers. The Army's number-one-in-command also wanted to lift troop morale and ask them to prepare for anything.

The officer added that Gen. Cedras took the opportunity, while visiting the barracks, to denounce, quote, the international community's emotional, irrational, and immoral role in managing the Haitian crisis. Gen. Cedras visited the naval and aviation corps, heavy machines, the National Palace, the Military Academy, and the Croix-des- Bouquets barracks.

It should be noted that sandbags have been placed near Port-au-Prince Police Headquarters, preventing traffic from entering nearby streets. This measure was taken in response to the Jonassaint government decree outlining various strategic zones.

More on Barracks Tour

PA2506233694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2102 GMT 25 Jun 94

[By Herold Jean Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 25 Jun (EFE)—Haitian Army chief Raoul Cedras continued visiting the country's military installations while the economic sanctions against the Caribbean nation remain in effect. General Cedras visited the Military Academy, the Dessalines Barracks, and the Haitian Navy installations on Friday.

Cedras, the leader of the coup d'etat that overthrew constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, criticized the international community for its "immoral" attitude toward Haiti. The Haitian Army chief has called on the troops to be ready to take action in case of any emergency or foreign intervention.

For the past few days, on Cedras' orders, security measures have been tightened at the barracks, and "strategic zones" have been established to which civilians may not get close.

Air traffic between the United States and Haiti should be suspended this weekend as part of the tightening of sanctions against the country's coupist regime following several weeks of constant departures of foreigners from Port-au-Prince. Some people, who were waiting to board a plane to leave Haiti last night, could not do so despite having confirmed reservations with Haiti's "Trans Air" airlines. Meanwhile, Haitian citizens, who were in the United States, and some foreign journalists arrived in Port-au-Prince aboard an "American Airlines" flight coming from Miami.

The Center for Free Enterprise and Democracy (CLED) in Haiti, mostly made up of young businessmen, protested the new economic sanctions imposed by the United States against the Caribbean island. The CLED criticized the drafting of a list of businessmen who would face sanctions without prior warning and without the possibility of resorting to lawyers.

This week, U.S. President Bill Clinton decided to freeze the bank accounts of all Haitians who have money in U.S. banks and live in Haiti. According to the CLED, this is an "immoral" measure. The CLED said the people adversely affected are not responsible for the crisis in Haiti. In a communique, the CLED stated it is unfair to punish people just because they belong to such and such a family. The CLED also spoke in favor of the restoration of constitutional order and state of law in Haiti. According to the CLED businessmen, the attitude of the United States and the international community is to "drown" Haiti. The document issued by the CLED, dated 24 June, states that the U.S. Government is acting in an "illegal and hypocritical" manner against Haiti. The CLED believes the measures approved by the United States seek to divide the private sector and inspire society to go against the businessmen.

St. Lucia

Senator Optimistic Following World Bank Talks

FL2506113994 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 2215 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] St. Lucia has been given a clean bill of health from major international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund. This was revealed last evening by one of the island's representatives at the just-concluded World Bank meeting in Washington. Speaking on the discussion program "One," broadcast on Helen Television System, government Senator (Charmaine Gardner) painted a bright picture of St. Lucia:

[Begin (Gardner) recording] I happen to have been in Washington last week, at the World Bank meetings, and we were told there by both the World Bank, by the International Monetary Fund, and by many other funding agencies who happen to have been at that meeting that St. Lucia was one of the countries in the eastern Caribbean, in fact, from Guyana all the way north to Jamaica, more than the eastern Caribbean, in the entire Caribbean region—St. Lucia was one of the countries who were doing very well.

St. Lucia had one of the best country reports given by both the IMF and World Bank and many of the other funding agencies. We were told that, in terms of our management, our economic management, management of our fiscal policy, our annual growth rate was between

4 and 5 percent; that the norm for countries like the United States is something like 4.5 percent; that our country's debt burden, in terms of its ratio to repayment, was also good; and that we need to maintain our annual growth rate; and that one of the ways in which we had arrived at the annual growth rate of about just over 4 percent and one of the ways in which we need to maintain that annual growth rate was that our economy had, by and large, been private-sector driven and that some of the greatest levels of import into the economy were by not only the traditional private sector but by the tourism industry and, in some sectors, by the agricultural industry, where there were areas of privatization and agroindustry. [end recording]

Trinidad and Tobago

Government To Regulate Competition, Unfair Trade

FL2506114694 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 2215 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The Trinidad and Tobago Government will soon adopt legislation to regulate competition and to minimize unfair trading practices. Minister of State and Industry Ken Valley says decades of protectionism have led to a lack of international competitiveness. He gives the assurance, however, that in opening up the market to private enterprise, the government would protect the economy from monopolies through an effective competition policy. The minister was speaking at the Seminar on Competitive Policy and Restrictive Business Practices. The highlight of this event was a panel discussion on the subject. Representatives of the manufacturing sector debated the issue with (Philip Busic), of the UN Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD]. Debbie Deganz reports:

[Begin recording] [Deganz] The question arose whether the size of a country's economy affects its ability to compete internationally. Chief Executive Officer of the TTMA [Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association] (Clive Teluxing) thinks so. And while he supports the theory of free trade, he would also like to see a policy framework in place before the doors are opened to foreign competitors.

[(Teluxing)] We have, in Trinidad and Tobago, a situation and laws that are geared to assist manufacturers to achieve that kind of level playing field in Trinidad and Tobago, and we are saying look, let's strengthen these laws, put teeth into the laws, and let's strengthen the administration of those areas.

[Deganz] But the UN representative maintains that since liberalization is worldwide, all countries, especially small ones, must protect themselves by ensuring a strong policy governing competition. The aim, says Mr. (Busic), is not to discriminate against foreign firms but to treat everyone equally.

[(Busic)] The aim of competition policy is not to stop monopolies, per se, but, in fact, it is to ensure that monopolies act as if they were under the pressure of competition; to avoid that enterprises sleep on their comfortable, single supplier position; that to avoid that enterprises provide bad service, ineffective, inefficent, noninnovative, and do not respond to the needs of the consumer.

[Deganz] The speed with which government should pursue the liberalization process came up for debate. While both the TTMA and UNCTAD agree that it should be a gradual process until the legislation is in place. Gene Hutchinson, of the Bureau of Standards, says we have run out of time. He says local companies need foreign competition to bring their products up to international standards.

[Hutchinson] And once you can compete successfully with the imports, in fact, you can then export to those markets. That's the name of the game. That's [words indistinct] you do not have the time. The game has gone past.

[Deganz] It was agreed that once the proper legislation is in place, the competition process will naturally weed out the weak companies, leaving those efficient enough to survive an international climate. [end recording]

Former TTMA Chief Warns Against Entering NAFTA

FL2506115394 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 2215 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The former head of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association [TTMA], (Gordon Rosseau), says NAFTA has nothing to offer Trinidad and Tobago at this point in time. In fact, (Rosseau) is of the belief that the government's plan to accede to NAFTA can only be seen as destructive to the island's manufacturing sector. Denise Moore has the details:

[Begin recording] [Moore] Mr. (Rosseau) says the perception that NAFTA is synonymous with free trade is a mistaken one. He refers to one asymetrical clause, designed to protect American industries which are larger than the entire economies of some Caribbean countries.

[(Rosseau)] If we are to join NAFTA now, we are not going to be joining NAFTA under the rules and regulations that those three countries joined NAFTA. And I'm saying that if...[pauses] I'll have to put myself out on a limb here: Assuming that our government is sensitive to the manufacturing industry and assuming that the 40,000 jobs and the $400-odd-million in revenue in exports is important and assuming that we have a place in the future diversity of this economy, then I don't understand why it is we are forcing and we are rushing into NAFTA in a destructive mode.

[Moore] The former TTMA president says NAFTA embodies the concepts of protectionism and selective

intervention. These are practices, he says, which it seems this government is reluctant to put into place. The manufacturer echoes the concerns of former head of the Institute of International Relations at St. Augustin, Professor (Anthony Brian), when he questions local ability to effectively bargain in the nation's interest.

[(Rosseau)] You look at the Venezuela agreement: five years, nonreciprocal trade. But I see some items on that list there, airplane wings, propellors for boats, things that we don't ever dream to get into. Those are the items that have preference for duty-free trade. I look at the list for the Colombian agreement that has just been signed. Again, none of the strength that we have in our exporting products are on that list for duty-free trade. Some are on a phased period, and some are to be negotiated in time.

[Moore] Mr. (Rosseau)'s fears appear to be vindicated by Prof. (John Butrick), of York University. Reflecting on the experience of the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement, Prof. (Butrick) says NAFTA has already gutted the entire manufacturing sector in Ontario.

[(Butrick)] It was clear from the beginning why this would happen. Ontario was selling across all of Canada. If you live in BC [British Columbia], and they suddenly say: We're going free trade. Will you continue to buy from Ontario? Or would you go somewhere where it's cheaper?

[Moore] Prof. (Butrick) says that the movement toward a competitive world economy will eventually erode national sovereignty. In his brave, new world, sovereignty will be replaced by market forces and nations will become powerless to control their own economies. And senior lecturer in the faculty of social sciences, Patrick Watson, feels this country and Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] should not limit their vision geographically. He feels Europe may offer more possibilities because of its historic ties to the region. All the speakers agree, though, that there is no hurry to join NAFTA, particularly since Latin America offers so many opportunities. [end recording]

Government Proposes Salinas as Director of WTO

PA2406145294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2258 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City 23 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Today, the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat announced that the government has presented the candidacy of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to assume the post of director general of the World Trade Organization [WTO].

The Foreign Secretariat announced in a communique that the candidacy of Salinas, whose presidential mandate ends in December, is being presented because the chiefs of state who participated in the Fourth Ibero-American Summit supported the Mexican president's aspiration to that post. The summit among the chiefs of state of Latin America, Spain, and Portugal took place last week in the Colombian port city of Cartagena de Indias.

Spain and Portugal withheld their support because of commitments in other international forums, but the rest of the heads of state who are members of the Ibero-American forum agreed that Salinas would properly represent the interests of the Latin American nations.

The WTO will replace GATT as of 1 January 1995 as part of the agreements reached at the 15 April meeting in Marrakesh.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Union; Brazilian Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero; and former Italian Commerce Minister Renato Ruggiero have also been named as possible candidates for the post of WTO director general.

Electoral Process Criticism Prompts Carpizo To Resign

PA2406195994 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1934 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Jun (DPA)—Today, Interior Secretary Jorge Carpizo, the country's top electoral authority, resigned from his post under severe criticism from the opposition concerning the management of the electoral process leading up to the 21 August presidential elections.

Carpizo Resignation Letter

PA2506034394 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 94

["Text" of the resignation letter sent by Interior Secretary Jorge Carpizo McGregor to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari; place and date not given; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, constitutional president of the United Mexican States. Distinguished President:

I expressed a number of concepts and ideas at the Federal Electoral Institute's regular meeting on 18 June, and I confirm them today. The people have a true saying that goes: He who gets angry, loses. I am more than angry; I am indignant and disappointed with my current position where I have done all I can possibly do. I have found people, however, from many sectors who, in the country's current situation, are only fighting for their own interests or those of their sector without caring for Mexico. On several occasions, I have urged society and the interior to base our actions exclusively on the truth. The response has been more lies, slander, and hypocrisy.

I promised to be impartial in my relations with all the political parties when I assumed this position. I am beginning not to be impartial with one of them because I am not and cannot ever agree with the actions of several sectors in that party.

One should recognize when it is time to leave. Due to my convictions and dignity, the time has come for me to do so. I no longer feel useful to the country in the political positions I accepted with the sole desire to serve Mexico. I am not a party man. I am really not a man of power. Thus, I will never again accept another political position.

For the aforementioned reasons, I respectfully request you accept my resignation from the post of interior secretary with which you honored me. I also want to thank you for your support and your trust in my work at the positions you assigned to me. I want to leave evidence that you never requested anything illegal from me while I occupied those positions. I also want to express my gratitude to my immediate assistants for their invaluable support during the past five years.

My norm, during the years I occupied political positions, was to strictly implement the law and to propose changes that would improve the law; my method was to have dialogue with reason. I fervently hope Mexican society and interior will reaffirm their adherence to the law and to truth. Mexico may be going through difficult moments, but, as in other occasions in its history, it will move ahead and will come out stronger. I take this opportunity to reiterate my respect.

[signed] Jorge Carpizo McGregor, interior secretary.

Resignation Discussed With Salinas

PA2506023194 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 94

[From the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[Text] Interior Secretary Jorge Carpizo McGregor has unexpectedly resigned from the post he assumed on 10 January. In a letter addressed to the president of the republic, Dr. Carpizo McGregor explained that his decision to resign was prompted by a political party's unrelenting attempts to tarnish the 21 August federal elections.

The Presidency of the republic reported that President Carlos Salinas asked Interior Secretary Carpizo McGregor to reconsider his resignation. They talked for several hours in President Salinas' office, but no agreement was reached. The president of Mexico said he hopes Dr. Carpizo reconsiders his decision, and Dr. Carpizo responded: "Give me some time, Mr. President. We will discuss this issue again this weekend." This is the current state of affairs.

There have been reactions from several officials following Carpizo's resignation. The National Executive Committee of the National Action Party [PAN] regretted Dr. Carpizo's decision and asked him to reconsider his decision. PAN Mexican presidential candidate Diego Fernandez de Zevallos echoed this request.

[Begin Fernandez de Zevallos recording] As a citizen and as PAN Mexican presidential candidate, I ask Dr. Carpizo McGregor to withdraw his resignation for the good of Mexico. I make this request considering my perception of Dr. Carpizo McGregor as an exemplary citizen and an honest official who must continue at the Interior Secretariat for Mexico's well-being. Thank you, that is all. [end recording]

PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] presidential candidate Cuahutemoc Cardenas Solorzano also spoke about Carpizo's resignation. Cardenas is currently in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State. He demanded that Jorge Carpizo McGregor explain his reasons for resigning from his post of interior secretary, which includes his post as president of the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute.

President Rejects Resignation

PA2406220894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2029 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Today, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari rejected the resignation of Interior Secretary Jorge Carpizo, who had sent a letter to the president stating his decision to resign and retire from political life.

The resignation presented by Carpizo, a prestigious attorney and former university director, took place two months before the 21 August elections. Nine political parties have presented candidates for the country's presidential elections. Carpizo assumed the Interior Secretariat at the beginning of the year.

Zedillo Reacts to Resignation

PA2506035694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 94

[From the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[Text] Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, Mexican presidential candidate for the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], has reacted to Interior Secretary Jorge Carpizo McGregor's letter of resignation. Zedillo reacted in a written statement issued through the National Executive Committee of his party. Zedillo noted that Carpizo's resignation from his post as interior secretary is not acceptable under any circumstance considering his political and moral attributes and his contribution to democracy, the protection of human rights, and the country's domestic policy of tolerance and concerted effort. There is an interesting paragraph in the Zedillo letter which reads: The PRI confirms its commitment to contributing to the efforts being made by Dr. Carpizo. The PRI supports Dr. Jorge Carpizo and cordially asks the government of the republic not to accept his resignation and to provide its fullest support for the work done by Dr. Carpizo.

The PRI also called on the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] to immediately respond with conviction to the dialogue initiatives made by Carpizo in his roles as interior secretary and president of the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute [IFE] to achieve the goals of the political forces and of all citizens. The PRI also asked the PRD and its supporters to respond to the proposals made by Dr. Carpizo at the sessions held at the General Council of the IFE on 18 June, in which he appealed for no more attitudes of confrontation.

It is also important to note that Ernesto Zedillo learned about Dr. Carpizo's letter in Toluca, Mexico State during a political event held with students at the technological institute, but the meeting was not very successful for Dr. Zedillo.

There was much emotion and joy, but that was because of the Mexican soccer team's victory. Dr. Zedillo said the following:

[Begin Zedillo recording] [Words indistinct] is for the national soccer team. [Students cheer] The rally has ended. Let us win on 21 August! [end recording]

When the political rally ended, Dr. Ernesto Zedillo said he would issue a statement on the resignation of the interior secretary at the PRI. He eventually did issue his statement through an information bulletin. At the rally, he said: Please let me learn more about the matter.

Zedillo Urges Withdrawal of Resignation

PA2506131694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 25 Jun 94

["Text" of letter from Ernesto Zedillo, presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, to Mexican Interior Secretary Jorge Carpizo on 24 June; place not given; from the "24 Hours" newscast; read by announcer]

[Text] Dr. Carpizo: Allow me to inform you of the deep consternation the news of your resignation from the Interior Secretariat has caused me.

I have the privilege of knowing about your record in the university and as a public servant. You have always been

committed to the nation's best causes and to strengthening the republic. We Mexicans see in you a distinguished attorney, a man with absolute democratic convictions, and a citizen who has always shown respect for the law while exhibiting the purest, ethical values.

For this reason and because of the great services you render the nation, I am allowing myself to tell you that it is necessary that you remain in the Interior Secretariat and as chairman of the General Council of the Federal Electoral Commission.

Hoping that the country will continue to benefit from your unbiased and patriotic cooperation, I take this opportunity to express to you my affection and respect.

Signed: Ernesto Zedillo.

PRD President Reacts

PA2506024994 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Report by Juan Ayon from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[Text] Commenting on the resignation of Jorge Carpizo from the post of interior secretary, PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] President Porfirio Munoz Ledo said:

[Begin Munoz recording] Carpizo faced a great deal of opposition to implementing the changes that are needed and which we demanded. The General Council of the IFE [Federal Electoral Institute] is ready to assume its responsibility; it does not want to be a decorative institution. [Words indistinct] electoral process but has shown determination to resolve the most important issues, even to revise decisions that have already been made. Obviously, [words indistinct] Dr. Carpizo [words indistinct] last session of IFE in which the counselors have promoted changes. [end recording]

Munoz Ledo affirmed that the PRD never requested Carpizo's resignation and that it did not oppose the changes he made to improve the work of the IFE. The PRD president stated that he hopes this is not a hasty move, adding that Carpizo should reconsider his decision because he is carrying out an impartial task, which is what Mexico needs.

Carpizo Decides To Stay in Post

PA2606202194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1924 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Jun (EFE)—Today, Jorge Carpizo decided to stay on as interior secretary after resigning on 24 June. Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari did not accept the resignation.

Carpizo, in a letter addressed to the president, said after receiving the support of broad segments of the community "and to prevent anyone from saying I acted irresponsibly and unpatriotically, I will remain in the post of interior secretary."

Carpizo's announcement averts a government crisis that many political analysts believe would have had serious consequences, if the resignation had occurred, on the political process Mexico is experiencing as it heads toward the 21 August presidential election.

More on Carpizo Decision

PA2606231694 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2024 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Jun (DPA)—Today, Jorge Carpizo, Mexican interior secretary and the country's highest electoral authority, withdrew the resignation he tendered on 24 June following controversies over the organization of the 21 August presidential and legislative elections.

The unexpected resignation of Minister Carpizo, who is also the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) president and known for his honesty and impartiality, shook the Mexican political system by casting new doubts on the honesty, legality, and credibility of the Mexican electoral process.

In a letter sent to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Carpizo said he will remain in his post "to accomplish the duties inherent to the office during the upcoming federal elections" in light of the "solid support" expressed by large sectors of society; the president himself; political parties; and nongovernmental, professional, and educational organizations.

President Salinas expressed his "complete satisfaction" upon learning of Carpizo's decision to withdraw his resignation and said the support expressed for the interior minister by Mexican society "reflects the impressive resolve, which I share, to make democratic progress in accordance with the law and free of violence."

In his letter to Salinas, the minister and IFE president vowed to be impartial and added that he will continue to act "in strict accordance with the law and will hold honest, fair, objective, and unbiased elections."

The minister reiterated his decision not to occupy any other political post once his job as head of the Interior Ministry and the institute in charge of organizing the current elections ends.

Minister Carpizo had based his resignation on reports on the attitude of "certain sectors," which he accused of fighting only "for personal or group interests without caring for Mexico." That is why he said he was "more than angry, indignant, and disillusioned".

The official sharply disapproved of the attitude taken by a certain political party, whose name he refused to

disclose, thereby sparking all kinds of speculation about whether he was alluding to the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) or the opposing Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD).

As he announced the withdrawal of his resignation, Carpizo again refused to specify which political party he had referred to because he believes it would "seriously impair" his impartiality and the role he must play in the electoral process.

PRD presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas accused President Salinas and PRI presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo of being responsible for Carpizo's resignation. Cardenas believes this situation reflects the existence of internal conflicts within the ruling party.

Meanwhile, Zedillo accused the PRD, without mentioning it by name, of being responsible for Carpizo's resignation. Zedillo blamed "the enemies of democracy," who "make fruitless attempts at subterfuge to incite a large electoral fraud in order to justify their anticipated defeat."

Zedillo Endorses Peace Commissioner Appointment

PA2506043794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0136 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Jun (EFE)—The appointment of the new commissioner for peace and reconciliation in the State of Chiapas confirms the government's determination to seek political solutions to the Indian conflict, PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo said today.

Last Wednesday, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari appointed Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, former president of the National Human Rights Commission, the new peace commissioner for Chiapas, replacing Manuel Camacho Solis, who resigned on 16 June.

Zedillo said Madrazo's appointment "confirms the government's determination that the dialogue, negotiations, and political solution must be the options to attain a definitive peace soon, one with justice."

The presidential candidate of the PRI, which has been in power since 1929, considered it an obligation to support the tasks of the government and the new commissioner for peace in the southeastern Mexican Chiapas State, in which the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) staged a rebellion on 1 January.

Zedillo's endorsement of the negotiations came after he strongly criticized Camacho Solis for the EZLN's refusal of the government offer, which the former commissioner presented as an official success, according to the PRI candidate.

Camacho Solis resigned because he considered Zedillo's criticism of his work a discredit. Zedillo had said his criticism reflected the feelings of numerous Mexican sectors.

New Chiapas Peace Commissioner Meets Media

PA2406172294 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report on news conference by Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, the newly appointed commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, with unidentified reporters in Mexico City on 23 June; from the "Early Morning" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Madrazo Cuellar] I have asked the Human Rights Commission's Council to report on my appointment and my formal request to the Senate for a temporary leave of absence as president of the National Human Rights Commission. Once the Senate and the Human Rights Commission finalizes this, I will be ready to answer your many questions, my journalist friends.

I can tell you that to this important and difficult task I will commit all of my abilities and eagerness to legally serve Mexico and the president of the republic. I am asking you to be understanding. I hope that as soon as the legal procedures are completed, you and I will be able to meet in order that I can answer your questions.

[Reporter] Any conditions for resuming the talks?

[Madrazo Cuellar] Again, I am asking you to be understanding and let the procedures be completed to enable me to legally and respectfully answer questions from the media.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Madrazo Cuellar] Tomorrow morning.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Madrazo Cuellar] The National Commission. As soon as the request for the absence of leave is cleared, the office will be managed by Carlos Dominguez. Thank you.

Ranchers Criticize New Peace Commissioner

PA2706025194 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 24 Jun 94 p 17

[Report by Elio Henriquez and Jose Gil Olmos]

[Text] Cattle ranchers and small landowners in the armed conflict area have criticized the appointment of Jorge Madrazo Cuellar as the new peace and reconciliation commissioner in Chiapas. Jorge Constantino, leader of the Belisario Dominguez Regional Union of Rural Small Landowners, flatly said that "appointing one commissioner is a mistake. There should be several commissioners, not just one."

He added that his comrades hope Madrazo, "unlike Manuel Camacho Solis, who left his job incomplete, will work seriously to solve the problem once and for all. We are in no condition to keep waiting."

Speaking of Jorge Madrazo, Constantino said "he treated us badly as president of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) during some incidents in Altamirano Municipality. This, however, is not the time to chide him. We hope he will change his attitude."

Constantino's opposition to the appointment notwithstanding, he expressed his desire that "Madrazo will act impartially with justice on his side to expedite a solution to the conflict," emphasizing that "some of my associaites are disappointed by Madrazo's actions in Altamirano" earlier this year.

The cattle ranchers' leader said the attitude taken by Madrazo in those days could spark "negative reactions by cattle ranchers and landowners in the conflict area."

He emphasized the following: We hope the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] accepts the new commissioner appointed by President Carlos Salinas, because "if he is the cure for what ails us, go ahead. We do not care who solves it."

The leader criticized former Commissioner Manuel Camacho's work by saying: "I do not know what positive role he played because the EZLN refused to accept the government's proposals. Constantino insisted that Camacho's job was left incomplete.

Francisco Lopez Ardinez, leader of the Ocosingo Cattle Ranchers Association, said his comrades were "not too pleased with the appointment." The leader of cattle ranchers in Ocosingo, one of the municipalities most affected by the armed conflict, angrily and disapprovingly added: "I would rather say nothing because the best opinion is the one that remains unspoken, the one that is interpreted only."

Marcos: Convention Only Option to War

PA2606191394 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 16

[Third of three installments of an interview with Subcommander Marcos of the Zapatist National Liberation Army, EZLN, by correspondent Epigmenio Ibarra in the Lacandona jungle in June; date not given; first three paragraphs are LA JORNADA introduction; quotation marks as published]

[Text] According to Subcommander Marcos, the National Democratic Convention convened by the EZLN is the proper alternative to prevent what is regarded as an imminent outbreak of violence. It is the responsibility of all political forces to choose that alternative, Marcos points out. "If the political parties take the wrong stand on the convention, they will eventually take the wrong stand on the war, which will blow up in their faces again sooner or later," he insists. He continues to say that the convention, for the time being, "offers the only opportunity to unite a scattered civilian movement with an isolated but localized military movement," thus forcing "a peaceful transition or at least making the military phaseout less bloody."

"Why should someone who demands freedom, justice, and democracy be labeled a dreamer," he wonders. He says that the convention, "this crossroads, this point of convergence with civilian society, organized or disorganized, is the first item on the EZLN agenda."

In this third installment of an interview held in the Lacandona Jungle, Marcos reaffirms the need for the union of "civilian and military revolutionaries." Asked if he still has hopes, Marcos answers: "Under the circumstances, that is the only thing that can keep us on our feet and alive. The problem now is to find out whether this hope has a trigger or a ballot."

[Ibarra] Any hope of holding the convention?

[Marcos] It would be premature to say. For the time being, we feel the convention offers the only opportunity to unite a scattered civilian movement with an isolated or localized military movement. We believe that the convention, inasmuch as it represents the convergence of military and civilian efforts toward the same purpose, can still bring about a peaceful transition or at least make the military phaseout less violent.

[Ibarra] There is an electoral process under way. Political forces are challenging each other. For instance, why can the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] not say: I am betting on the convention, not the elections, or the PAN [National Action Party]? What would happen if those organized political forces did not cooperate?

[Marcos] The political parties must start from reality. The media have pointed out that none of the parties has succeeded in achieving a consensus among those who abstain. That is to say, the parties are facing a very high degree of abstentionism and will share the votes. According to the official list, there are between 45 and 50 million registered voters, but everyone is taking it for granted that at least half of them will not vote. In other words, the parties will have to share between 22 and 25 million votes. According to the most optimistic estimates, the winning candidate will receive between 9 and 12 million votes. The winner will have to govern in an ungovernable climate. In other words, the winner will receive between 15 and 20 percent of the vote at most. Whether he likes it or not, his government will be a minority. If I were the winning candidate, I would be seriously concerned about that 50 percent, the more than 20 million people who will not vote because they are not interested in politics or elections or because they believe in violence. I would not say they would necessarily take up arms, but they would look favorably on an armed movement, one that could break up the electoral system.

The political parties are aiming in the wrong direction, at those who are determined to vote and will vote. We aim at those who will not. If the political parties take the

wrong stand regarding the convention, they will eventually take the wrong stand on the war, which will blow up in their faces again sooner or later. That 50 percent of registered voters who will not vote represents the potential for war. That is how we see it.

[Ibarra] Does this have the potential for passivity and conformism?

[Marcos] Our analysis is based on this group. Passivity and conformism are a force that will go in one way or another. It could be the balance will tilt in one direction and things will remain the same, but the balance could also tilt toward war if the group, in one way or another, decides: "Well, let there be a war. We will not do anything to stop it." Isolated groups or, as they are called, groups of lunatics could start mobilizing and encouraging the other millions of Mexicans in that 50 percent to move to a more radical and permanent option.

[Ibarra] Mexico had a convention in the past, the Aguascalientes Convention. Are you urging a convention as part of a revolutionary tradition, or do you believe you can carry out a task similar to the one undertaken at the Aguascalientes Convention in the past?

[Marcos] We believe we can keep the task that was not accomplished at the Aguascalientes Convention. Of course, it is also part of the EZLN's historic right to call to this convention. I want to tell you, I really want to insist to the country that we are not resorting to foreign models to make our demands or to further our political and military course. The 1914 Aguascalientes Convention was an effort to unite the military and civilian movements of those times. The Zapatists understood it in this manner, but they were defeated on this issue at this convention. The 1914 Convention was an agreement, or, rather, was an attempt to reach an agreement to get the military forces to become civilian-oriented. The Zapatists of those times insisted that it had to be an agreement between the military forces and the civilians to further this transition, but the revolutionary civilians and military forces did not reach an agreement for several reasons. The objective of the 1994 Convention, to which we are calling, is to try to associate or to hold a meeting between revolutionary civilians and revolutionary military forces to initiate this passage to democracy in Mexico.

[Ibarra] Other attempts are being made. The peace commissioner himself was working hard to further an initiative for a government of transition or a wide front for democracy. What do you think of those efforts?

[Marcos] We view those efforts with skepticism because other people's logic will say what is to be done, as they are the ones who will make the summons a success. The government always says it is successful in the measure that it appears in media headlines. Political parties and other forces believe they are advancing based on the amount of intellectuals in their groups or the space the media gives them. This is how they appraise the situation, but, later on, reality shows them they were wrong. We are calling those who do not have space in the newspapers, those who do not want to give conferences or write in newspapers, those who are voiceless and faceless, as we have said previously. We are calling them to this convention or to reach this agreement between civilians and military forces.

"We do not reject this type of initiatives or fronts, but, in one way or another, if they are perceptive and honest, they will have to converge and agree with the convention for which we are calling or at least to reach an agreement regarding it."

[Ibarra] It is frequently said the isolation, the jungle, the years of struggle here can inhibit you from having a coherent, cohesive vision of the future to design a project for the country that can be offered to all of Mexico.

[Marcos] Regarding our historic blindness, I believe the events between January and July have shown that if we do not have much lucidity, there are others who are at least blinder than we are. This is the EZLN's modest, or, better said, we admit that the reality is: There is no project for the future of the country. We are saying: Let us sit down and talk with those who are going to have to carry out, to deal with, to confront or organize the country's future. We have to sit down and talk about it, and the place is at the convention. We have to reach an agreement, to discuss what it is we want, and, in that sense, the EZLN's voice will be one among the others. What worries us greatly is: Why do they say a person is a utopian if he asks for freedom, justice, and democracy? To what point have we gotten in this country that we say a person who is fighting for the most basic human rights is a utopian? To what point has skepticism contaminated, poisoned people already?

[Ibarra] Are you referring to the skepticism?

[Marcos] Look, how can an army take up arms for freedom, justice, and democracy and this be considered as utopian. We want a democratic, free, and just country, and this is utopian? What has happened to the people who think and write? What are they doing with their thoughts, their work, their life? In what way or up to what point has skepticism poisoned them? Is it to the point that they say nothing is possible? In what measure is this conformism or passivity?

"What we are trying to do is open a space so that, perhaps, all the skepticism in the country will not necessarily become skepticism to the nth power and to have the possibility of realizing it is not a utopia but, rather, a right for which we have to fight. In the worst case, all the revolutions have been a utopia prior to being started, and all major changes in the history of mankind have been a utopia the day before they became a reality.

[Ibarra] What is the first point on the EZLN program at this time?

[Marcos] The convention. All our efforts will now be focused on establishing that bridge, that link of unity, that point of consensus with civilian society, organized or unorganized. The convention, if it materializes, is the only possibility for the EZLN and the country to make a peaceful journey to democracy, without violence.

[Ibarra] Weapons today are a guarantee of this peaceful journey. Does the EZLN's existence change the outlook?

[Marcos] Yes, there is another option now. The option before was: You either settle for what I offer or you will face my weapons, that is, their weapons. We are now saying: You either agree with the decision of a majority or settle for a very long war that would wear down both parties, and we are the only ones who have nothing to lose. We made no investments in the stock market, and we have nothing to lose in this regard. Those who have investments, prestige, and so on, need to be careful; we do not. They either accept this decision imposed through a peaceful means or accept that hell will last several years.

[Ibarra] When we refer to hell and the possibility of the explosion of a conflict, many talk about 22 August as the day when this could happen. There could, however, also be some sort of propaganda to frighten the people.

[Marcos] I think that January, well, actually the six months of war, or armed truce, or armed peace, as some call it, demonstrated once again the limits of the media, the limits of propaganda. What started in January or February, I mean the possibility of a new ethical code or a new way to handle the media, finally resumed its course. Efforts that certain media were making to democratize themselves to genuinely meet the expectations started to disappear. There was an attempt to be the protagonist; they were certain about their influence on public opinion until we proved them wrong on 10 June 1994, when we said no.

"Throughout that period, everyone insisted in the media that the armed struggle was no option. I am glad that peace is on the way, that there was already a negotiation, that it is only a matter of time, and that there will be a spectacular signing. I insist that faceless and nameless armed forces, which respond to the EZLN, have grown throughout the country and in certain sectors. If they are betting on propaganda, they are betting to lose; if they are betting on television spots and newspaper headlines, by the way, they will lose, and so will the media."

[Ibarra] Finally, you are talking to an atomized left wing. You told them: Let us reach a consensus on what we do not want, and later we will reach a consensus on what we want. Is this possible? What project are you proposing to the left wing, and what will be your stand toward the elections, which are just round the corner? What will the EZLN do with its political and moral strength? Who will receive it? Where will it channel it?

[Marcos] We do not know; this is quite a problem. We think that historic time is going by faster than calendar time; the historic time between 1 January and 10 June, when we said no to the government proposals, that is, between the first and the second Lacandona Jungle declarations. In terms of historic time, it was very meaningful to this country. This means that it is possible to make historic time run faster than calendar time and that this process to achieve unity and agree on what we do not want—that we no longer want a state party—includes not only an atomized left wing, but that it could also lead the middle class and important wealthy sectors.

"In one way or another, the clumsiness of the state party, as it promoted a neoliberal and arbitrary project at the political level, also affected the interests of the high classes. I think that the stand of saying no to the state party will find supporters in broad sectors of the population. The problem arises when we say: We want to be Maoists, Trotskyists, orthodox, social Christians, democrats, centrists, and so on; that is where problems start. When a person starts to say how things should be, he starts, even unwillingly and spontaneously, to divide and dissolve.

"But if we try to reach a consensus on what we do not want, we believe we can participate. We may not be the leaders, but we can participate in a broader movement under the common cause of opposing the official party. We have had enough of the official party and everything it implies. This historic time is about to whom we should give our political support. We believe many forces will establish their positions in the coming days, even regarding the convention. Whom could we support, whom could be the man to receive our support, or does a transition to democracy have a name? I am telling you: We do not know any of this yet. We would have to know if a leader such as Francisco I. Madero will come forth in this historic time, given we are referring to the historic past that nourishes the EZLN.

Finally, the EZLN is foreseeing that even if a leader is missing, at least there will be, at the social and civic levels, the need for a transition government and a new Constitution, which regulates the new political relations. It would be good to have a leader at the right time and the right moment. We cannot commit our political endorsement, our support to someone unless the historic moment indicates he is worthy of it. By historic time, we mean the mobilizations and the explicit commitment to assume the EZLN causes; otherwise, we could implicitly acknowledge that or we could, in a given moment, raise those causes. The EZLN believes a government must have a clear commitment to advance the causes for which we rose up in arms. Our causes are outlined in 11 points, which are mainly encompassed in democracy, freedom, and justice.

[Ibarra] The EZLN would somehow be a force depending on historic forces. It would be a catalyst, a thermometer.

[Marcos] We believe that does not mean there is a fever. The EZLN is conducting an internal evaluation and is

obtaining a "negative" result. It is conducting an external evaluation at two levels through the tables set up for consultations and informal consultations, and the result is also "negative." We believe this is right, that the measure was the correct one, and that we must assess the situation again. We must again set the thermometer for August, that is, from now until to August—what will happen between now until August—and examine whether a peaceful transition is still possible. We are optimistic and believe a peaceful transition is still possible. What concerns us is whether a leader will come forth.

[Ibarra] The responsibility is no longer in your hands but in the hands of people in the cities and towns, people outside the EZLN.

[Marcos] Definitely, because I must clarify that even in military terms, we are not at a military disadvantage vis-a-vis our situation in January. In other words, we are not weaker militarily than in January, nor have we more to lose now than we did then. On the contrary, in military terms, we have more advantages: Our morale is higher now than in January; we have more people now than then, and we have nothing to lose by waiting and saying if you have another alternative try it. We cannot do any worse than we did. In any event, whatever happens will be better for us as an organization, as the EZLN.

"Time flies for the civilian sector; historic time flies. I insist on that, because I always get answers based on a calendar. I tell the government that if they would have thought on 1 January of stopping the war in 12 days, they themselves would have said it was not enough days, but I believe that had they organized themselves, it would have been enough time. Now, there is much effervescence, which could generate results at the Convention."

[Ibarra] Do you have any hope?

[Marcos] Yes, definitely. Hope is the only thing that under the current circumstances can still keep us alive and on our feet. The problem now is determining whether that hope has a trigger or a ballot.

Senate Approves Increased Participation in World Bank

PA2706013694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 23 Jun p 51

[Report by Nestor Martinez]

[Text] Yesterday, in a unanimous vote, the Senate authorized the executive branch to acquire up to $4.279 million in International Financial Corporation [IFC] shares. The purchase will be made through the Bank of Mexico, bringing the country's total shares to a maximum of 27,589. The IFC is a division of the World Bank.

The Senate also approved the second issuance of the new, silver 5-peso coin commemorating the quincentennial of the discovery of America. The issuance was reportedly authorized as an incentive for national producers and as a means for the executive branch to help strengthen the mining industry, which is currently experiencing a serious crisis.

Porfirio Munoz Ledo, president of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, made a short statement to say the transaction with the IFC was "positive" as it calls for an additional disbursement of more than $4 million, which will strengthen the Bank of Mexico and increase the country's participation.

Munoz highlighted the fact that the loans were to come from international financial organizations. Mexico urgently needs assistance to reconstruct its productive economy, increase employment, and funnel all possible funds, especially those coming from multilateral loans, toward developing small and medium enterprises, decentralizing the economy, and increasing production.

Jesus Rodriguez y Rodriguez, president of the Senate Treasury Commission, said "the transaction is, of course, advantageous. He added that "our dealings with that organization have been beneficial as we have received $100 in loans for every $1 invested." He said such loans have been granted on excellent terms and under superb time conditions.

Belgian Expelled for Political Activities

PA2706034094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0424 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Today, the government announced the expulsion of Belgian citizen Frederik Vandersteene for participating in Mexican political activities, thus violating national laws.

The Immigration Services Sub-Secretariat of the Interior Secretariat reported that the expulsion took place 16 days ago after authorities demonstrated that Vandersteene participated in political activities in Chiapas State, southeastern Mexico.

The sub-secretariat added that the Belgian citizen admitted to active participation in Mexican internal political affairs, thus violating the law, and recognized that "as a foreigner, I am forbidden from participating in the country's political affairs.

The Immigration Sub-Secretariat issued a communique explaining that Vandersteene was in possession of a tactical maneuvers manual which included instructions on how to act before authorities to go undetected in case of an armed attack.

Vandersteene arrived in the country on 15 March 1993 as a one-year visitor to work for the Suitable Technology for Agricultural Development and Services Civic Association. On 1 June, he asked immigration authorities in San Cristobal de las Casas, southeastern Chiapas State,

for a permit to leave the country permanently because he lacked immigration documents and because it suited his plans.

The communique states that the permit was granted on 7 June, but then Vandersteene said he wanted to visit Cancun, in eastern Quintana Roo State, despite his request to leave the country permanently.

When asked to show the documents granting him permanent residence in the country, Vandersteene, who had a round-trip Cancun-Amsterdam-Cancun ticket, showed a briefcase full of papers detailing his political activities in Mexico.

The sub-secretariat said that the tactical maneuvers manual and the papers demonstrating that he was in Chiapas carrying out political activities forbidden to foreigners were among the documents inside his briefcase. The Belgian citizen said the manual was "a souvenir" he wanted to take to Belgium and admitted he participated in internal political affairs.

In view of these circumstances, the Immigration Sub-Secretariat turned Vandersteene over to the Quintana Roo Attorney General's Office. The local court ruled there was insufficient evidence to presume he had committed any crime. The communique goes on to explain that immigration authorities then proceeded to expel the Belgian citizen on 7 June.

Group of Alleged ETA Members Arrested in Jalisco

PA2606140794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0145 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Jun (EFE)—A group of alleged members of the Basque terrorist organization ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] was arrested in the city of Zapopan, Jalisco State, western Mexico, and is accused of being involved in homicides, kidnappings, and bank robberies, according to the Mexican newspaper EL UNIVERSAL GRAFICO. The newspaper reported the group, presumably linked to the terrorist organization ETA, was arrested following an extortion attempt in Zapopan.

EL UNIVERSAL GRAFICO cites investigations which the Attorney General's Office (PGR) has conducted and adds the group under arrest is involved in the deaths of a citizen from Los Angeles, (California), a Venezuelan official, and a Mexican businessman.

The group, known as "Los Julupesty," has been committing "kidnappings, homicides, threats, and thefts in various banking institutions" in the last few months, the Mexican newspaper has reported. The arrested men followed "a crime route extending from Los Angeles, California, to Caracas, Venezuela, passing through Mexico," the publication reports.

The group is headed by David Gomez, alias "El Chino," a fugitive of the justice system and an alleged, active, ETA member, the article added. The arrested individuals, whose nationalities were not disclosed, are Marcos Gomez Ontiveros, Ernesto Lopez, Carlos Alberto Ortiz, Daniel Ramirez, Vilma Ramirez, Carmen Armianca, and Jarry Gomez.

In their first statements before the Jalisco Attorney General's Office, the seven individuals admitted they had tried to extort a family in Zapopan through a letter, but the family notified the police, the Mexican newspaper reported. The article added the arrested individuals could be involved in the murder of businessman Mario Gonzalez, who was shot to death by two individuals in the Mexican port of Veracruz on 1 April.

Likewise, according to the source, they are accused of participating in the kidnapping and murder of William Munoz, leader of a gypsy community in Los Angeles who was killed on 21 April because the $1-million ransom that was being demanded was not paid.

El Salvador

'Terrorist' Plot Against Officials Revealed

PA2606193694 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 24 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] Police intelligence sources yesterday revealed the existence of a terrorist plot to justify attacks against members of the cabinet, individuals, and businesses as reprisals for the death threats politically irrelevant individuals are allegedly receiving.

They added those anonymously hiding behind the FRS [Salvadoran Revolutionary Front] are trying to effect an apparent "emotional outburst" against the individuals who have been accused in the past of being the possible perpetrators of violent incidents.

The sources stated it was known since early last week a communique reportedly from the self-styled FRS would be released. The FRS "condemns the threats against the human rights ombudsman, Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas, the Society of Jesus, and the National Judiciary Council" by a so-called "Domingo Monterrosa Command."

The communique added it declared the members of the Calderon cabinet, as well as this newspaper's staff and installations, to be "military objectives" if any attack is executed against those who have received threats. Intelligence sources have stated they had no prior knowledge of any group named Domingo Monterrosa, which only leftist chieftains mention, as they did with another ghost group they have called the "Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Brigade," whose alleged members nobody has ever seen.

The plot, according to the sources, is clearly similar to the one the former FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrillas used during the years of terror, when they took advantage of internal purges or the elimination of "expendable" or irrelevant figures to justify the selective murders of businessmen and democratically-minded ideologues.

The pattern, they said, greatly resembles the events following the bomb blast at the Fenastras [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] building in October 1989, an explosion which days later led to the offensive of late November of that year. The sources added the impact that the individuals hiding behind the FRS hope to obtain is an "emotional outburst" against those had been previously accused of incidents that led to violence.

EL DIARIO DE HOY was the target of an incendiary attack on 1 November 1993, following a tirade by FMLN chieftain Joaquin Villalobos during the funeral of Heleno Castro Guevara, alias "Commander Carmelo." On that occasion, Villalobos accused the newspaper's editor of being the spokesman for the murderers of Castro Guevara, who, it was reported days later, was killed during an unpremeditated squabble prompted by a traffic accident.

On that occasion, the international community rejected Villalobos' attacks when the IAPA [Inter-American Press Association] issued a statement demanding the FMLN "abstain from attacking EL DIARIO DE HOY with words or deeds, urging this group to use the channels of the existent Salvadoran democratic system to peacefully express their own viewpoints."

Defense Minister Condemns Death Threats

PA2706013794 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 25 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister General Humberto Corado yesterday condemned the threats made by self-styled "revolutionary" groups, saying they are more likely the product of sick minds that want to maintain unrest in our country.

"It is condemnable that at this time there are sick minds that use anonymous statements to spread terror and generate unrest," Defense Minister Gen. Corado said yesterday, referring to an anonymous statement that purports to be a "communique by the Salvadoran Revolutionary Front," which has circulated in San Salvador. The statement includes deaths threats against several members of the cabinet and people from democratic sectors under the pretext that "if something happens to the people threatened by the 'Domingo Monterrosa Command,'" they will take reprisals.

Gen. Corado said no one has proven the existence of the so-called Monterrosa Command, which is most certainly a ruse by the same leftist groups, just as it happened with the so-called Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Brigade. It is most likely that they, the so-called "radical left," want to get rid of certain people and are grandly "condemning them to death" to then "execute them and take reprisals." Leftists of the Mao Zedong line invented this tactic. The official said anonymous groups are trying to besmirch the name of Colonel Monterrosa, who is regarded as a national hero.

"As soldiers living in a time of peace, we must condemn all violence promoted by any sector, regardless of its affiliation," he stressed.

To declare this or that place "a military objective" will only generate distrust and make life impossible for a government that is struggling to maintain peace," Minister Corado said. [no opening quotation mark as published]

"We as soldiers regret that there are still some sick minds circulating these kinds of anonymous statements," the ranking officer said.

President Announces Changes To Fight Crime Wave

PA2406214294 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report by Edwin Gongora; from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] President Armando Calderon Sol says the security corps have intensified their efforts and have changed their strategy to deal with an increase in crimes. In the past few hours seven people have been killed in San Salvador alone. The president also said the alleged organizational support of criminal gangs will be thoroughly investigated to identify those people involved in supporting the gangs and to bring these criminal supporters to justice.

President Calderon Sol said that, as a result of the bank robbery, security measures have been doubled to fight the crime wave that has proven the existence of organized crime in El Salvador.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] All necessary measures are being taken beginning with the implementation of a different course of action for the National Civilian Police as well as for the National Police under the coordination of the public security deputy ministry. The purpose is to confront this regrettable situation that is taking place in the country—this wave of crimes perpetrated by common criminals and also by organized crime. [end recording]

The president said that appropriate investigations are under way and that there are clues about the possible perpetrators of the spectacular bank robbery. He added that the results of these investigations will be disclosed in due time by the deputy public security minister. The president said his government is also investigating the gangs' alleged support organizations.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] We are going to uncover these organizations and get to the bottom of this. We have to conduct a very thorough investigation to stop these crimes and to eliminate organized crime in El Salvador. [end recording]

The president said the law will be applied against those involved in these crimes because his administration has a deep commitment to eliminating this disgrace from society.

'New White Hand' Claims Execution of Gang Members

PA2606170194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2100 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 25 Jun (NOTIMEX)—A clandestine group, consisting of civilian crime victims, has claimed responsibility today for the execution of at least 18 members of holdup gangs during the past six months.

A member of the "New White Hand" ["Nueva Mano Blanca"], a name used in the past decade by a so-called "death squad," has told NOTIMEX the victims were "executed" in San Salvador and in areas of the outskirts for their involvement in holdups.

A spokesman for this group, which emerged last January, explained his organization consists of approximately 80 civilians, including women, who have been victimized by criminal gangs. He has said that his group is not responsible for the attacks on or murders of politicians and that its mission is to fight crime "due to the authorities' inadequate actions to eradicate it." He added the group uses 9-mm pistols to "execute" gang members. The police have reported more than 50 criminal gangs are operating in San Salvador. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Government, URNG Sign Accord on Displaced Persons

PA2506144594 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 18 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by Carlos Castanaza Rosales]

[Text] The Guatemalan Government Peace Commission and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity on 17 June in Oslo, Norway, signed the Agreement for the Resettlement of People Displaced by the Armed Conflict, which focuses on the creation of a technical commission.

As for the *institutional arrangements* detailed in Paragraph 2, Chapter 5 of the agreement, it is established that the commission will be made up of two government representatives, two representatives of the displaced persons, and two representatives of the donor and friendly countries and of international cooperation agencies, who will serve as advisers.

The agreement indicates that *the Commission will be formed within 60 days after the signing of the this agreement. To this effect, the Guatemalan Government will issue the corresponding regulatory decree.*

The agreement, signed before negotiations on mechanisms for the historical clarification of the past, introduces the definitions, principles, and objectives of general resettlement strategies. It also touches on guarantees for the same, the productive integration of displaced persons, development of resettled areas, international resources and cooperation, and institutional arrangements.

This last issue also contemplates the creation of a fund for the implementation of the resettlement agreement. The fund will be created with international community contributions, and the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] will manage the resources allocated for each project.

There is a paragraph on the security of people resettled in areas affected by the armed conflict, which recognizes the need to immediately remove all mines and explosive devices planted or left behind in these areas and for cooperation in these activities.

The parties agreed to request that UNESCO draft a plan to meet the educational needs of these people and to help them get their personal identification documents in order.

In conclusion, it is worth noting what the agreement stipulates on the land issue. We will seek to give greater facilities for the use of these lands to ensure their better use as established in the support, agricultural development, and other guidelines.

President Welcomes Agreement

PA2406163894 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Jun 94

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] Today in Oslo, Norway, government and URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] representatives signed an agreement that establishes the foundations for the creation of the Truth Commission. The agreement underscores the need to promote a culture of harmony among Guatemalans, and it establishes that one of the commission's goals will be to establish, with impartiality and equality, responsibility for human rights violations perpetrated as a result of the internal armed conflict.

During a visit to Roosevelt Hospital today, President Ramiro de Leon Carpio expressed satisfaction over the signing of the agreement with the URNG, whereby the Truth Commission will be established.

[Begin De Leon recording] A few hours ago, an agreement was signed; it is among the many steps that have been taken, starting with the national peace plan presented by the government.

As you know, the national peace plan consists of three parts: reconciliation; the solution of the Guatemalan people's economic and social needs or, in other words, the struggle against poverty; and third, the conclusion of the internal armed conflict.

Regarding the first part—reconciliation and the establishment of a permanent forum for peace—we agreed to form a temporary assembly of civilian representatives. This assembly will be headed by Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno. With regard to the second part, we are making great efforts to combat poverty, and when the internal armed conflict ends, we will face a new challenge—the biggest challenge of all—which will be the elimination of the injustices and economic and social circumstances that are hurting the Guatemalan people. Regarding the third part, I am very pleased to say that starting this year, based on the national peace plan we presented to Guatemala and the international community, we have fulfilled all of the points.

In January, we signed the framework agreement, which opened this new phase of the process. In the framework agreement, both sides agreed to sign a peace agreement this year. Subsequently in March, we took a big step forward by signing the General Human Rights Agreement, from which emerged the Commission for Historic Clarification [Comision de Esclarecimiento Historico—CEH]. This is a very significant agreement, because in the past human rights had hindered the peace process. We also signed the agreement on immediate international verification, which is another big step forward.

Today is a historic day for Guatemala because, believe me, never before have we encountered such an inherently complex matter. Today's event is a significant step that truly brings us closer to peace. Before this, we signed a schedule that clearly outlines each phase—phases we are fulfilling. The international community is pleased with the administration's true political resolve and also with the resolve of the Guatemalan Army, which has unquestionably played an important role in this matter, not only because it is directly involved, but also because of the issues that directly affect the institution.

In this case I can say that we are adhering to the schedule and that a historic step was taken today in Oslo on the issue of displaced people, which also was a big step forward. This is perhaps the greatest and most gratifying event for us. I must tell you that the agreement under which the Commission for Historic Clarification will be established has certain characteristics. In the first place—and this is fundamental—it has been established that this commission must explain possible human rights violations in detail, but its recommendations and reports will not personalize responsibility or be used to initiate legal proceedings.

This is the main issue, I believe, because it is in keeping with the entire philosophy of the agreement. The document does not advocate revanchism; on the contrary, from the very outset it calls for an end to the armed conflict, thereby establishing the foundations for peaceful coexistence with respect for human rights in Guatemala. It underscores that it is necessary to promote a culture of harmony and mutual respect that will eliminate every form of revenge and retribution. This is the central philosophy of this agreement, and it is an essential condition for firm and lasting peace.

The CEH was not agreed to intensify our pain or to constantly make us look over our shoulders. Anyone who constantly looks over his shoulder can easily trip and fall. The purpose of the commission is to strengthen peace and make it lasting. Meanwhile, another of the agreement's main goals is the objective of equitable and impartial clarification of human rights violations and violence that took place over a number of years during the internal armed conflict.

As for the formation of the CEH, the news agencies have already informed you how we agreed to do this. The UN secretary general will be asked to appoint the current peace talks mediator as a member of the commission. A citizen of irreproachable standing, and one who is approved by both sides, will be appointed by the mediator. Finally, an academician will also be selected by the mediator, in conjunction with the two sides, from a list of three candidates proposed by university rectors.

The commission will be installed and will begin to function on the day the firm and lasting peace agreement is signed. It will work for six months and can be extended for an additional six months. This deadline is deemed to be sufficient to conduct an investigation and issue a report. This means that within no more than a year following the firm and lasting overall peace agreement, the commission will present its report.

I must stress that the commission will prepare its report within the established period, but, perhaps, the main issue is that we have agreed on a central philosophy that opposes revenge and retribution; on the contrary, it seeks reconciliation, forgiveness, and a new phase in Guatemala by way of a commission that will prepare a report that will prevent us from again experiencing or suffering the violence of the past. It is clear that the commission has duties that prevent the personalizing of responsibilities or taking legal action. During the course of this period we will find the mechanisms with which to make an agreement possible. [end recording]

Defense Minister on Accord

PA2506003094 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 24 Jun 94

[News conference by Defense Minister Mario Rene Enriquez with unidentified reporters on the agreement reached by the Guatemalan Government and the General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, to create the Commission for Historical Clarification, CEH; place and date not given; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Enriquez] ...a historical event. As President Ramiro De Leon Carpio visited—I believe—the Roosevelt Hospital, he was asked the same question. I believe my reply will be the same. I must tell you that the Guatemalan Government's political resolve is shown once more. Reaching a full and lasting peace is our objective. We believe the work done by the government's peace delegation in Oslo was excellent. I congratulated them for their almost 15 days of hard work. I can tell you from experience that this type of work is exhausting. However, this work was not completed in vain, because we took two more steps toward achieving the peace we all desire.

[Reporter] Is the Army satisfied with the agreement reached by the government and Army representatives?

[Enriquez] I do not think any military members disagree with accepting and signing certain agreements. What we are doing here has national resonance, and those things that could affect the Army have institutional resonance. I refuse to believe someone will place his personal interests above national and general interests. As I said earlier, this situation does not prevail in the Army. Of course, there may be someone who is unsatisfied because it was once said that the Army would never hold talks with armed groups. This was even said at Esquipulas II. However, the Guatemalan Army is an institution that always respects the Army General Commander's mandates. On that occasion, it was said that there were going to be talks with subversives, and we held talks with them. There are even Army members currently holding talks with subversives. From the institutional and my personal point of view, I can tell you that the two agreements are good enough to lead to reconciliation and peace in Guatemala.

[Reporter] Have the objectives of the Guatemalan armed conflict been accomplished by creating this commission? You said on repeated occasions that there would not be an avenging commission? Could you....

[Enriquez, interrupting] ....I believe you are completely right. We always said, even when I was a member of the Peace Commission, that the CEH [Commission for Historical Clarification], which was initially called the Truth Commission, did not intend to seek revenge. Its goal was to learn what really happened to ensure that new generations will not make the same mistakes and to prevent Guatemalan society from becoming polarized to the extreme of starting to kill each other again. These last 34 years have been very painful years of mourning, death, deception, and polarization. It has been a very long night for Guatemala; we now believe a dawn is coming for Guatemala. The CEH meets the equanimity, justice, and impartiality requirements, but, above all, the commission seeks no revenge. This is why the cases will not be handled individually, but collectively.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, what can be concluded from a number of recommendations made by General Victor Manuel Argueta Villalta?

[Enriquez] In reference to what?

[Reporter] In reference to his statement that those sectors that wanted to question him legally lacked moral authority.

[Enriquez] I think the Guatemalan Army, as a legitimate armed group established to defend the State, fulfilled completely its constitutional duties during these 34 years. All Guatemalans must be proud of the Guatemalan Army because thanks to this Army, this legendary Army with high morale but very poor resources, Marxist-Leninism was not established in Guatemala.

If it were not for the Guatemalan Army, we would now be regretting the establishment of Marxist-Leninism in Guatemala. Because of the Guatemalan Army, we have a

better Guatemala. It is not as developed as it could have been if the subversives had not undermined progress in Guatemala. However, we anticipate a better Guatemala. We must all recognize that there is poverty in the country, and we must work to achieve better standards of living for all people. We, Guatemalans, must work to achieve this goal. We cannot sit around and wait for money and happiness to come from the heavens. We must all work harder and with greater integrity, tolerance, and understanding to attain a happy society in Guatemala.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, changing the subject, the human rights ombudsman has requested that the Army defend the sovereignty of Guatemala, which is being challenged by Belize. Will you do this?

[Enriquez] That is our duty. We will fulfill our obligations, but we also know Belizean reality and the reality of what is currently taking place. I know this reality first hand because I have traveled there, and if necessary, I will go there again.

There is no problem between Belize and Guatemala at this time. There are no definite borders; there is [word indistinct] between El Peten and Belize. This situation will have to be defined according to the recommendations made by this newly installed Belize Council, as stated by the foreign minister and the president. This Council will conduct a study and will make recommendations to the president on a referendum or popular consultation to end this territorial claim of Guatemala, which is recognized by Belize, England, and the world.

[Reporter] Meanwhile, what will the Guatemalan Army do about the threat from Belizeans to expel Guatemalans, whom you had a chance to visit, from the neighboring area? Is there Guatemalan Army presence there?

[Enriquez] We have soldiers there; there are also soldiers from the Belizean Army. We have talked to the Guatemalans residing there. They have not been forced to leave the area. We coordinated efforts with the INTA [National Institute of Agrarian Reform] president. The commander of Military Zone No. 23 is aware of these efforts, and he was instructed to assist these people. But they will not be removed from the area.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Enriquez] This cannot be done. That could create a more serious conflict in the area.

[Reporter] What will happen if the Belizean Army wants to expel these Guatemalans? This is our concern.

[Enriquez] My answer to that is the following: The chief of the Belizean Army spoke to [name indistinct] Rodriguez, and he told him that they were not interested in evicting these Guatemalans. He said that they should leave once they obtain land, that they will be offered transportation to move to their own land, and that they will not be moved from one place to the other. They will leave that area, which is an ecologically protected area. There is a Maya cemetery in the area.

[Reporter] In the meantime, you will not allow that they be...

[Enriquez, interrupting] Listen, our main duty is to protect our fellow citizens, and we will give our lives for our fellow citizens. You can rest assured of this.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, going back to the Truth Commission issue, people's sectors have expressed violence could increase while [words indistinct] is approved. What is the opinion of the Army?

[Enriquez] Well, the accords for the creation of the Commission were already approved and signed.

[Reporter] Yes, but these groups fear violence may increase before the Truth Commission begins operating.

[Enriquez] I know this Commission will begin working immediately after the final accord is signed.

Honduras

U.S. Defense Secretary Perry Pays Visit

Vice President Rejects Haiti Invasion

PA2506232094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2137 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Government of "Honduras rejects an invasion of Haiti," a high-ranking Honduran official has told U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and Southern Command Chief General Barry McCaffrey.

Honduran Vice President Walter Lopez Reyes told NOTIMEX that "Honduras disagrees with a forceful invasion of Haiti" and that he voiced this position to the U.S. military leaders who arrived in Honduran territory today.

Perry and McCaffrey arrived at the Palmerola Military Base, where they met with Foreign Relations Minister Ernesto Paz, Government Minister Efrain Moncada Silva, Vice President Walter Lopez Reyes, and Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir.

Lopez Reyes made assurances that the government of President Carlos Roberto Reina would be willing to cooperate with a mission to restore peace in Haiti requested through a UN or OAS resolution. He said that military leaders in the Clinton administration have never asked Honduras to support an invasion and that they only requested our "opinion" on the Haitian situation.

Another topic discussed by the Honduran and U.S. officials was the future of the U.S. base in Palmerola, located in the central Department of Comayagua. This installation was built in 1983 when anti-Sandinist armed

groups in Nicaragua, known as "contras," used Honduran territory as a base to launch their armed operations with U.S. financing and aid.

This base legalized the U.S. military presence in Honduras, and its construction cost over $30 million. "We talked about the future of Palmerola as a regional counternarcotics training center," Lopez Reyes pointed out. Honduras is unable to maintain this base, and thus, the vice president admitted that it could hardly be transferred to Honduran hands. Palmerola will also be used by the U.S. National Guard and Army Reserves to train in engineering and civilian-military operations, Lopez Reyes added.

He denied that the United States will transfer to Honduras the 82d Airborne Division, which invaded Grenada in 1983, because there has been no thought of transferring the Southern Command (headquartered in Panama) to Palmerola, as was reported in this capital.

U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry will head for Puerto Rico today, after visiting Panama and Honduras, and he will return to Washington on Sunday.

Accord Reached on Peacekeeping Forces

PA2606174594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1618 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Government is prepared to send military forces to maintain peace in Haiti, Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar said today, although he does not agree with a military invasion of that Caribbean nation.

The diplomat said his country is prepared to join a multinational peacekeeping force in Haiti, as it does in Western Sahara, where it has a small military contingent.

The situation in Haiti was one of the topics the foreign minister discussed on 25 June with U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, who is wrapping up in Puerto Rico today a visit that included Panama and Honduras.

Paz Aguilar reiterated Honduras will not accept a massive inflow of Haitian refugees, because it did that two years ago with 250 Haitians who were taken to the Bonito Oriental sector in the Caribbean region of this country. There are still approximately 26 Haitians in that area who would like to go to the United States or Canada. The refugees sparked certain disturbances in the Bonito Oriental sector. Honduras would like the situation to return to normal in Haiti, where the military toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide two years ago, the foreign minister said.

Foreign Minister Meets Perry

PA2606001194 Paris AFP in Spanish 2245 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, Jun 25 (AFP)—After a meeting between Honduran Government officials and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry today, it was officially reported that the United States will install a regional center to counter drug trafficking activities in Honduras.

The Pentagon's number one man met with Honduran Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua, Vice President Retired General Walter Lopez Reyes, and Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar at noon today. The meeting was held at Palmerola, a military base that was constructed in 1982 and is located 84 km to the north of Tegucigalpa. There are approximately 1,000 U.S. soldiers stationed at Palmerola.

Perry arrived in Honduras this morning after visiting Panama and traveled to Puerto Rico later in the day. The United States must withdraw approximately 10,000 Southern Command soldiers from the Panama Canal area by December 1999 at the latest. Perry said the withdrawal from Panama had prompted them to consider transferring several air units to Palmerola. He said, however, that "in general, all the military installations in the region are being reduced because of geopolitical changes."

Honduran Foreign Minister Paz reported, however, that "this issue had not been discussed" at the meeting with Perry and that "Honduras is not going to become a military platform" for the United States. "I believe the U.S. policy, at an international level, is to close bases and to decrease the number of their soldiers stationed abroad. I do not believe they are interested" in increasing their presence in Honduras, Paz asserted.

The Honduran minister added that, at the meeting with the U.S. secretary, it was agreed within the framework of a treaty to establish a regional center in Honduras to counter drug trafficking" and that Honduras would want the center to be located at Palmerola.

"It is clear that Honduras has to redefine its relations with the United States based on dignity," Paz observed, alluding to several reforms to the 1954 U.S.-Honduras military treaties that were proposed by the Honduran Government several months ago. The presence of the U.S. troops in Honduran territory is included in those agreements. According to the foreign minister, the issue "was broached in a very preliminary manner" during the meeting with Perry.

Panama

PRD Head: U.S. Waging 'Blackmail Campaign'

PA2406183894 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 Jun 94 p A6

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas and Carlos Vargas]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Government has again announced it is offering a $100,000 reward for the capture of three Panamanians—among them the son of Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) President Gerardo Gonzalez—who have been charged with the murder of U.S. soldier

Zak Hernandez. Meanwhile, Gonzalez claims the reward is part of a "blackmail campaign" being waged against him.

The State Department has published advertisements in several Panamanian newspapers offering a reward to anyone who comes forward with information on the whereabouts of Pedro Miguel Gonzalez, Roberto Garrido, and Daniel Batista, who have been charged with Hernandez's murder and the wounding of another Southern Command soldier. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Gerardo Gonzalez says the State Department intends to use his son as "a scapegoat to attack and blackmail me."

The PRD leader also accused the judicial branch of thwarting his son's constitutional rights by not allowing him to retain a lawyer for the trial in the murder case of soldier Zak Hernandez.

According to Gonzalez, Pedro Miguel's only role in the events that took place during former U.S. President George Bush's visit was his participation in the demonstration that took place at Porras Plaza.

The Zak Hernandez case was investigated by the Fourth District prosecutor, who requested that Pedro Miguel Gonzalez, Roberto Garrido, and Daniel Batista stand trial. Second District Judge Sandra Huerras De Icaza will assess the merit of the arguments.

Initially, the authorities arrested three other people accused of taking part in Hernandez's murder, but they were later acquitted. None of the three Panamanians sought by the State Department has retained defense attorneys, because the courts have not yet accepted the powers of attorney extended by their relatives to a group of attorneys.

Molirena Not To Join Opposition in Next Government

PA2606165694 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 24 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by David Daniel Victoria]

[Text] Sources within Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] have disclosed the decision by the party's Political Committee to maintain an independent criteria and not join a "constructive" alliance in opposition to the government that will be installed on 1 September, as proposed by Arnulfist Party [PA] President Mireya Moscoso de Gruber.

According to the queried sources, the Political Committee has said during the next government it would support the positions by any other group as long as they are beneficial to Panamanians and the country in general. Molirena has believed that if an alliance is created, it should not be until the actions of the next government are known.

Eduardo Linares, PA leader and planning and economic policy deputy minister, has said the people of Molirena do not feel the need to create an alliance to oppose the next government now. He added his party will continue to support a "constructive opposition alliance."

He has said that the PA members hope the next government will choose the best course for the country and that the PA will take it to task if it does not. If things are done for the good of the country, "we will support it."

Acting President Guillermo Ford met at the Palace of the Herons on 20 June with the PA president and top leaders, and Mrs. Gruber proposed to the Molirena members who were present they create a constructive alliance in opposition to President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares' government.

Mireya Moscoso de Gruber explained her party is actively working to maintain an attitude critical of the actions of the next government. The PA rejected an offer by the president-elect to participate in the structure of the government that will take office in September.

Argentina

Menem Discusses Talks With Clinton on Haiti

PY2406191094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1708 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Washington, 24 Jun (NA)—President Carlos Menem said today that relations between the United States and Argentina "are going through the best of times." Menem also spoke about the possibility of sending more ships to help in Haiti's political and economic blockade.

Menem made these comments during a news conference at the Argentine Embassy in Washington after his meeting with his U.S. counterpart, Bill Clinton, at the White House.

During most of the news conference Menem answered questions on international matters, which were at the center of his talks with Clinton today.

Menem considers himself a guarantor of peace and democracy. He also mentioned issues that will be discussed in the hemispheric summit in Miami.

"We discussed the Haitian situation, the next American continent summit meeting in Miami," the president said. Menem added that Argentina is ready to contribute to any decisions made by the UN Security Council.

Speaking about the hemispheric summit, Menem said: "It will center on three main items: democracy and its most important result—freedom, trade, and continental security. Other topics might be added later."

Menem said he is sure economic sanctions against Haiti will yield good results, adding that he is "always speaking about political and economic measures."

Menem said there are two ways Argentine troops can be sent to Haiti, where a dictatorial government prevents elected authorities from taking over.

"The first case is presidential prerogative. The president can send troops anywhere in the world to keep the peace. This is the case in Croatia, Cyprus, and Haiti. In Haiti we are contributing to the embargo. The president needs congressional approval if troops will be involved in combat situations," Menem added.

The president said that during his meeting with Clinton the two leaders discussed "the most worrisome current issues, which includes the case of Haiti. We agreed on the need to increase pressure in the political and economic areas to force the withdrawal of the military from the government."

The president said he was optimistic about a possible resolution of the international problem created by the North Korean refusal to deactivate its nuclear programs.

"I learned today that U.S., North Korean, and international organizations' representatives will meet next month to try to solve the problem," Menem said.

The president also was asked about Brazil's annoyance at Argentina for its support of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to head the World Trade Organization.

"I recall that Argentina supported Carlos Salinas de Gortari based on a Colombian request made at the Ibero-American summit. I was not aware then of the Brazilian position on the issue," the president explained.

Menem added: "Brazil proposed the candidacy of Mr. [Rubens] Ricupero, a successful economist in Brazil. Therefore, at this time there are two candidates, and the decision is in the hands of World Trade Organization members. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Regarding the issue of Haiti, Menem said pressure against the dictatorial government could include actions in the financial field.

"These measures will affect the entry of capital and assets, but the decision will be made by the United Nations. As guarantors of democracy and freedom, we will support them immediately," Menem said enthusiastically.

The president added: "The international community, through the United Nations, must take steps as quickly as possible when a country does not live in democracy, when people are killed everywhere, and when there is hunger and misery because of it."

Jokes About Castro

PY2406203394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1519 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Washington, 24 Jun (NA)—President Carlos Menem today cracked some jokes about his Cuban counterpart Fidel Castro. He said Castro "is becoming more modern: He changed his combat fatigues for a light shirt [guayabera]" during the recent summit of Ibero-American heads of state and heads of government in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

In response to a journalist's question on the Cuban leader's change of dress, Menem said: "It is a good omen that leads us to believe Cuba will soon be democratized."

Menem emphasized that he responded with a joke the journalist's question because "this style of dress suits him well and makes him look younger."

"I said it with all respect and with all my affection for the president of Cuba," said Menem, who for the first time used the word "president" for Castro. He previously referred to him as "the commander."

Menem later told the journalists that, during his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, "the Cuban issue was not discussed."

Menem held informal talks with Castro in Colombia. He referred to the Cuban issue during a news conference at the Argentine Embassy in this city after meeting with Clinton at the White House.

Discusses Talks on Joining NAFTA

PA2606133394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1224 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Jun (EFE)—President Carlos Menem announced today, Sunday, the United States has practically "decided" Argentina will join the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which comprises the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Menem, who arrived in Buenos Aires this morning after an official seven-day visit to Canada and the United States, told reporters the decision "depends on the invitation extended to us."

The president described as "very good the mission accomplished" in the two North American countries, adding his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton was "very important."

Views U.S. Relations

PA2606205794 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1911 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Jun (DPA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem praised bilateral relations with the United States, anticipated Argentina's prompt joining of NAFTA, and called the opposition's request for a political trial of Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo "outrageous."

Upon arriving in the capital following a trip to the United States and Canada, Menem said that "the decision about Argentina joining NAFTA has practically been made," but everything "depends on the invitation extended to us," he said.

Menem said his meeting with his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton at the White House on 24 June was very significant, and that his meeting with former U.S. President George Bush was very "warm and affectionate."

As for the request by the Radical Civic Union [UCR], the main opposition party, that Cavallo, who drafted the current adjustment plan, be brought to political trial, Menem said that action cannot be taken just because the minister interpreted a law.

Former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, current UCR leader, told the UCR deputies' faction leader to ask for a political trial of Cavallo following his interpretation of the extension stipulated by Congress to choose between private or state retirement.

Despite the 90-day extension to opt for the distribution [de reparto] or capitalization plan approved by the legislature, Cavallo announced last Friday that those who did not choose before 1 July would be registered in an administrating board for private retirement funds.

Opposition legislators challenged Cavallo's interpretation and expressed their concern that the executive branch would not promulgate the law approved by Congress before 1 July, when the deadline expires.

Menem stressed today that he will decide the issue of the extension for choosing a retirement plan.

Brazil

Argentina's Menem Avoids Support for Ricupero

PY2506021294 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2253 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by Paulo Sotero]

[Excerpts] Washington, 24 Jun (AE)—Argentine President Carlos Menem, who two weeks ago caused an incident with Brazil in attempting to obtain Latin American support for the candidacy of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari as chairman of the World Trade Organization (WTO), today said in Washington that the final decision on the subject will be made by the European Community.

His statement will probably exasperate the Brazilian Government, which is annoyed at Menem's attempt to undermine the candidacy of Brazilian Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero as WTO chairman during the Ibero-American Summit that took place in Cartagena, Colombia. [passage omitted]

Following a 30-minute meeting today with U.S. President Bill Clinton—which was obtained after three months of negotiations—Menem tried to explain his government's position regarding the WTO candidacy during a news conference. He did not confirm his support for the candidacy of Ricupero, whom he wrongly described as a "successful economist." The Argentine president said that when he arrived in Cartagena he did not know about Ricupero's candidacy, and that he suggested the name of Salinas "following a proposal made by the Colombian Government."

"Right now," Menem said, "there are two candidates from this continent, one from Mexico and the other one from the Federative Republic of Brazil." After saying this Menem got mixed up, and said: "Supposedly the candidacy will be defined by the members of the European Commission, and the candidate could be a European."

A reporter asked Menem for a better explanation. "The WTO is an organization from the European Community, it is not an international organization," the Argentine president said. "Or better yet," he corrected himself, "it is an international organization but it is an organization from the European Community."

Menem traveled to Orlando, Florida, this evening, where he will watch the soccer match between the Argentine and Nigerian soccer teams. As he is known for bringing bad luck, he will apparently comply with a petition by the Argentine soccer players, and will watch the match on television "for reasons of superstition," he said.

Official Delegation's Trip to Portugal Suspended

PY2506030294 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2323 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] On the same day that the DIARIO OFICIAL carried authorization for a 12-member Brazilian delegation to travel to Lisbon, the meeting of the chiefs of state and government of Portuguese-speaking countries, which should have taken place in Lisbon tomorrow, was canceled.

Portuguese President Mario Soares yesterday telephoned President Itamar Franco to inform him that the presidents of Cape Verde and Angola would also not attend the meeting, and would send representatives instead. In view of this Mario Soares decided to cancel the meeting and postpone it to another date. The chief of the Brazilian delegation would have been former President Jose Sarney, and four ministers were to travel with him.

Brazilian Ambassador to Portugal Jose Aparecido de Oliveira did not like this cancellation, as he was one of the greatest enthusiasts of the meeting and of the principal point on its agenda: the unification of the Portuguese language.

Up until the very last moment Jose Aparecido tried to make President Itamar Franco change his mind and attend the meeting. When he did not convince him, Jose Aparecido became furious.

Senate Economic Committee Discusses Patents Law

PY2506011694 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 23 Jun 94 p 5

[Article by Helena Tachinardi from Brasilia]

[Text] The Senate Economic Affairs Committee yesterday held a public hearing to discuss the draft bill regulating intellectual property rights (trade marks and patents). Entities opposed to intellectual property rights on pharmaceutical products and biotechnology objected to the text recently approved by the Uruguay Round of GATT talks.

GATT's "TRIPS" ("Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights") agreement, which in the next few days will be sent to Congress for ratification, was defended by Ambassador Roberto Abdenur, Foreign Ministry secretary general; by Interfarma, the association representing 39 foreign pharmaceutical laboratories; and by Jose Roberto d'Affonseca Gusmao, president of the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI).

Senator Jose Richa (PSDB-PR) [Brazilian Social Democracy Party, Parana], Economic Affairs Committee project coordinator, invited entities interested in the subject to present their objections. He said he wants to improve the version of the bill produced by the Chamber of Deputies, and confessed that the project is causing him more difficulties than any other in his 28 years of public life.

Senator Antonio Mariz (PMDB-PB) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, Paraiba State], rapporteur for the Constitution and Justice Committee, has not yet submitted his report. According to his advisers, the tendency is to leave the bill's discussion until after the evaluation of the GATT agreement on intellectual property has been approved. Meanwhile, this position is not defended by the government. Guzmao has said that "Brazil needs a law that is independent from the GATT agreement."

The national pharmaceutical laboratories, represented by Alanae [expansion unknown] and the Brazilian Association of Refined Chemistry [Abifina], want a 10-year grace period for the law's implementation in accordance with the GATT guarantee. The bill, which was approved in 1993 by the Chamber of Deputies, limits the grace period to one year, which is to begin once the new legislation is approved.

Abdenur said that "TRIPS is an unavoidable handicap" and "we cannot give ourselves the luxury of ignoring it." He also stressed that it was the result of an international consensus of 125 countries. Congress cannot amend the GATT treaty; it can only approve or reject it.

Nelson Brasil, Abifina president, and Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes, president of the Brazilian Trade Association (AEB), supported by other organizations, have indicated that it is not the concession of patents that will bring foreign investment to the country, and that only economic stability can do that.

Pratini favors the approval of a law that would contain GATT's ideas, and expressed his concern regarding greater U.S. retaliation, which has cost the paper and pulp industry some $300 million over the past few years. If the United States excludes Brazil from the Generalized System of Preferences [GSP] because of the patent problem, Brazil could lose $75 million, he warned. Pratini has called for the approval by Congress of a new trade defense law. On 23 June he submitted a draft bill in this respect to senators and to the ministers for foreign affairs, industry, commerce and tourism, and finance.

Francisco Teixeira, Interfarma's representative, who spoke in the name of the 39 foreign pharmaceutical laboratories that are installed in the country, defended the modifications that had been made in the draft bill, such as: clear and ample protection for biotechnology; patent exploitation for locally manufactures and for imports; compulsory licenses only as an exception

(calamities, abuse of economic power); banning of parallel imports; and protection for the products that are not introduced into the Brazilian market ("pipeline"). [preceding word in English]

The government has already submitted its suggestions for amendments to rapporteurs Mariz and Richa, who have not yet submitted their opinions to their respective committees. The amendments have taken into account the GATT's TRIPS agreement. The Senate's Economic Affairs Committee has received numerous letters from organizations criticizing the patenting of new sectors such as pharmaceuticals, food, biotechnology, and chemistry.

Lula Promises Not To Finish Nuclear Plant

PY2506030094 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2102 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report By Reali Junior]

[Text] Paris, 24 Jun (AE)—If it were up to Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the Angra-2 nuclear plant would not be built. The PT [Workers Party] presidential candidate made this commitment during talks he held today in Bonn with representatives of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. During a recent visit to Bonn, Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim had assured German Government officials interested in the progress of that plant that it would be built.

Yet Lula and Marco Aurelio Garcia, the external area coordinator of the PT program, did not succeed in convincing German businessmen. They were both evasive regarding foreign trade financing and the PT approach to the foreign debt. The representative of the Deutsch Sud Amerikan Bank walked out of the room in protest over Lula's confusing positions about the Brazilian reality.

In a meeting with German Vice Foreign Minister Helmut Schafer, Lula stated that a PT government would honor all of the agreements signed by Brazil regarding nuclear nonproliferation and the missile control regime.

Meets German Party Official

PY2406184994 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2239 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Paris, 23 Jun (AE)—PT [Workers Party] presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and German businessmen will hold a working breakfast on 24 June. Lula will tell them that he intends to finance his economic program through the creation of solidarity funds.

Although the Lula administration will seek agreement with the richest sectors of Brazilian society, it will also tax large fortunes by regulating existing constitutional article. For Lula, who arrived in Bonn this evening, this is not a new measure; it is in practice in several European countries, including Germany and France.

One of the main concerns of the German reporters who met with Lula today was how an eventual PT administration will treat foreign investments. "I want investments that will produce results in the social field. Germany is a good example of this," Lula said. Nearly all German investments in Brazil are in the productive sector.

Today in Mainz, Lula met with Rudolf Sharping, president of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), with whom he discussed the foreign debt. PT government platform coordinator Marco Aurelio Garcia calmed Sharping by saying: "The PT criticizes the foreign debt agreement signed by the Brazilian Government, but will respect it as long as it does not affect our exchange reserves or our government program financing." The PT government program requires funds to fight unemployment and misery, and to help education and the land distribution problem.

Even though the PT belongs to Socialist International, it is contacting the European Social Democratic parties which are traditionally closer to the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] of Leonel Brizola and the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] of Fernando Henrique Cardoso. SPD President Rudolf Sharping was unable to explain quite why his party financed the trip of the PT candidate and his delegation to Europe. Sharping merely said the SPD is open to contacts with other Brazilian political parties. Lula said that although the PT does not belong to the Socialist International, it has always maintained good relations with the German SPD and other European social democratic parties which are concerned with social aspects.

Officer Urges Businesses To Back Anti-Lula Candidates

PY2506021994 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 6

[Article by Celso Pinto: "Lula Sparks Fears of 'Nasserism'"]

[Text] Senior military officials are concerned about a possible victory of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the Workers Party [PT] presidential candidate, for various reasons. One of the most serious reasons—although not openly discussed—is the fear that a "Nasserist" type movement may emerge.

This was one of the topics addressed by a senior officer close to high-placed government officials during a recent meeting he held with more than 10 leading businessmen. The conversation was open, and the tone was pessimistic and full of warnings about the future. He conveyed a clear message: The best option for businessmen is to finance the candidates who could defeat Lula at the ballot boxes.

A crucial point of the officer's analysis is that, in the implementation of its program, the PT could lead Brazil to an institutional impasse. He noted that even moderate

PT sectors have criticized the fact that Lula's government program has not taken into account the role of Congress in outlining its projects, despite the fact that the PT program envisages major changes "that will bring about confrontations within society," the officer said.

It is believed the PT will fall well short of a majority bloc in Congress. In practice it will have to deal with a conservative Congress "and there will be an institutional impasse." There is nothing new in the officer's prediction. He said that something similar occurred in 1963 and 1964, when then President Joao Goulart sought to impose his "basic reforms" on a conservative congress.

When the impasse occurs, he says, Brazil will either plunge into "lawlessness" through an anarchic process or enter "an arbitration process" through "the action of mediators." The new ingredient is right here. The "mediators," quoting the officer, would be the military, although without fulfilling the role they had in 1964. The "destructuring of the Army" could provoke an intervention that may not be led by senior officers linked with a conservative project, but by middle-level officers, in a "Nasserist" type process.

The officer thus alluded to the process through which then Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser and his "young Turks" took power in Egypt in 1956. That is, a type of armed intervention advocating nationalism and a planned economy. Although the officer did not say so, it appears he was hinting that this type intervention could be done in coordination with the PT or with leftist sectors.

The officer acknowledges that Lula is more tilted toward moderate PT groups and that, if moderate sectors prevail in the government, there will be no impasse. The problem, he said, is that there is no way of guaranteeing that the radicals will be kept on the sidelines.

He described the PT program as "intimidating." For instance, the PT wants to implement an agrarian reform through expropriation of land in an area equivalent to three times the size of Alagoas State at a cost of $20 billion. Reforms are necessary, he said, but in a "gradual, cautious" process.

Furthermore, the officer believes, irrespective of who is elected president, Brazil faces severe structural problems that the constitutional revision process could have solved. Without these changes, he said, it will be much more difficult for any president to rule the country.

There will be a type of "legal anarchy" provoked by the autonomy enjoyed by lower echelons, by the strangling of the federal budget through tied and poorly used allocations, by the "inverted stability" of public employees whereby job security is granted to uneducated employees who could be hired on the market and not to administrative officials of state-owned and self-financed companies— who are massively replaced with each government or ministerial change—and by the possibility of public servants calling a strike, which is not prohibited by the Federal Supreme Court.

As can be predicted, the businessmen fully endorsed the officer's analysis. The doubt, one businessman said, is that it remains to be seen who is the best anti-Lula candidate, either Fernando Henrique Cardoso or Orestes Quercia, a subject which was not discussed.

What this type of meeting reveals, irrespective of whether the analysis of the officer is correct or not, is that Lula has to go some to bridge the gap that separates him from more conservative, and strong, business sectors and overcome the distrust he still provokes among military leaders.

Cardoso Admits Possibility of Losing Election

PY2406143094 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Jun 94 p 21

[Text] Brasilia—For the first time since he began his campaign for the presidency, PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso admitted the possibility of losing the elections to PT [Workers Party] candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. During a meeting he held with President Itamar Franco on 21 June, Cardoso made an objective analysis and expressed his fear that Lula may win in the first voting round.

"I do not doubt I will be the candidate with the second-most votes in the first voting round; but then there may be no second voting round," Fernando Henrique said during his conversation with Franco.

"Fernando's main concern lately is that Lula may win in the first voting round," said Senator Pedro Simon (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul], who attended the meeting.

On account of this concern, Cardoso decided that until the first voting round he will not attack contenders like Esperidiao Amin from the PPR [Progressive Renewal Party], Leonel Brizola from the PDT [Democratic Labor Party], and Orestes Quercia from the PMDB. The strategy is not to harm these candidates now so they can attract votes from Lula.

"I will not attack anyone now. Their candidacies must grow so Lula will not win in the first voting round," Cardoso said.

Cardoso on 22 June asked Senator Jose Sarney (PMDB-AP) [Amapa] to help him in Congress so the Real Plan will not be modified. He made this petition informally during a meeting in the Senate cafeteria where they chatted for 10 minutes accompanied by Senator Jonas Pinheiro (PTB-AP) [Brazilian Labor Party], a candidate for Amapa governor, who reported on their conversation.

Jonas Pinheiro believes Sarney is inclined to support Cardoso, but not immediately like the PSDB and PFL [Liberal Front Party] want.

"I feel that he will support Cardoso but Sarney is cautious. He wants to be sure," Pinheiro said.

Cardoso again said that eventual support from the former president will be welcomed, but he will not "aggravate" any politician to support his candidacy.

"I am campaigning among the people. Sarney is a responsible individual. He must make his own decision," Cardoso said.

Chile

PRC Nuclear Test, DPRK Nuclear Stand Rejected

PY2506033494 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 15 Jun 94 p C2

[Text] The government yesterday rejected the PRC decision to conduct a new nuclear bomb test, and also the DPRK's reluctance to allow inspection of its nuclear installations by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The PRC decision has led the Chilean Government to summon the PRC diplomatic representative today. Special Policy Director Pablo Cabrera will express to him the government's concern.

Concerning the North Korean position, it was reported that Chile cosponsored the IAEA resolution that imposes drastic sanctions, including the withdrawal of assistance to programs for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, except for aspects related to medicine.

The IAEA was assisting North Korea with $240 million for such programs.

The Chilean Government reaction to these two situations is in line with its traditional position and with instructions from President Eduardo Frei on the matter.

A clear step was taken in this regard on 18 January of this year when Chile, a signatory of the treaty proscribing nuclear weapons in Latin America, became an active member of the Tlatelolco Treaty, in order to begin immediate negotiations with the IAEA seeking agreement on safeguards through which all its activities in the nuclear field would be subjected to control by the IAEA.

The government has been following attentively what has been happening in North Korea. In addition to the North Korean position, which is repudiated by Chile, is the fact that this is a Pacific Rim country with which excellent political and economic relations have been maintained.

Due to international pressure the DPRK Government had recently announced its immediate withdrawal from the IAEA, thus making even more remote any international control of its nuclear activities.

The North Korean reluctance to allow international inspections has been one of the factors, not to say the main one, preventing a stronger bilateral relationship.

The tension generated by the sanctions imposed by the IAEA, and the statements made by the United States, Japan, and South Korea, have prompted fear that the confrontation could become aggravated or even lead to war.

It is a dangerous situation, but "the real interpretation" made by the Chilean Foreign Ministry is that it is not as dramatic, as it considers the tough North Korean position to be a subterfuge aimed at obtaining a greater advantage in negotiations.

Special Policy Director Pablo Cabrera will convey today to the PRC diplomatic representative the Chilean Government's concern over the PRC decision to test a new nuclear weapon in the Lop Nor testing ground, in the western province of Xinjiang.

In a public statement lamenting the PRC decision, the government states that this explosion can be added to another explosion conducted by the same country last year.

"The Chilean Government hopes, once again, that these nuclear tests will end definitively, seeking to achieve the total proscription of nuclear weapons for the benefit of international peace and security, a hope much desired by mankind now that we are on the doorstep of the third millennium," the note ends.

Colombia

President-Elect Samper Appoints 5 Ministers

PA2506013494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Report by Azucena Lievano from the "24 Hours Newcast"; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Minutes ago, here at the Narino Palace, President-elect Ernesto Samper Pizano officially announced the first five ministers of his cabinet.

[Samper] "Justice Minister Dr. Nestor Humberto Martinez."

He was bank superintendent, and he is currently abroad.

[Samper] "Government Minister Dr. Horacio Serpa Uribe."

He will occupy this post for a second time. He is the ideal person to handle the peace negotiations with the guerrillas.

[Samper] "Defense Minister Dr. Fernando Botero Zea."

He will be the second civilian to run the Defense Ministry—a big question mark for the military.

[Samper] "Finance Minister Dr. Guillermo Perry Rubio."

He has been adviser to the president-elect for many years. He has mastered public treasury matters.

[Samper] "Foreign Relations Minister Dr. Rodrigo Pardo."

He is a political expert who knows how foreign policy works.

Vice President-Elect Vows To Fight Drugs

PA2506021794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Report by Raul Gutierrez; from the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Text] President-elect Ernesto Samper has asked THE MIAMI HERALD to correct its position, and President Cesar Gaviria expressed his support for the president-elect.

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] For the first time, President Gaviria talked about the attempt to infuse the presidential campaigns with drug trafficking money, as detailed by the recordings he received from Andres Pastrana four days prior to the elections.

[Gaviria] All Colombians want a thorough investigation to yield results soon in order to dispel doubts.

[Gutierrez] President Gaviria expressed support for the president-elect, who announced that, should he find out that any member of his team is involved, he would dismiss him from any post he might occupy in the government.

Meanwhile, Vice President-elect Humberto De la Calle, who is a member of the Promoters Committee for the Penalization of Drug Consumption, said the new administration will relentlessly fight drug traffickers.

[De la Calle] First, we will continue the military and police fight against drug traffickers.

[Gutierrez] There will also be new laws to penalize money laundering and appropriations. [end recording]

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0059 on 25 June transmits a 175-word Santa Fe de Bogota-datelined report citing De la Calle as saying: "It will become a fight to arrest and make drug traffickers pay the debts they owe to Colombian society." The report adds: "The new government will submit two bills to increase drug traffickers' prison terms by means of a reform of the Penal Code, thereby closing the gap on 'certain legal limbos and loose interpretations' that let criminals enjoy prison terms shorter than the ones they deserve. De la Calle also pointed out that the new administration will make money 'laundering' a crime in Colombia and will seek international cooperation to trace the routes travelled by illegal money."]

Backs Gaviria on Drug Ruling Challenge

PA2406201294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report by the Ricardo Canon from "The Midday Newscast"]

[Text] The next administration, through Vice President-elect Humberto de la Calle Lombana, today expressed its fullest support for President Cesar Gaviria in his initiative to call a referendum as the only solution to challenge attempts to decriminalize drug consumption in the country.

[Begin De la Calle recording] President Gaviria's proposal to call a referendum to reform the Constitution stems precisely from situations that we have observed. We, too, have questions about this ruling which today is a legal reality that can only be removed from the Colombian judicial scene by improving the Constitution. We applaud the government's decision on this issue. [end recording]

Meanwhile, President Cesar Gaviria believes there is no way to implement Constitutional reforms other than through popular participation.

[Begin Gaviria recording] There is no other possible option, because, while it is true that, in the opinion of the court, the judicial measure allows legislators to regulate matters related to age, place, employment, and some other activities in which drug consumption takes place, unquote [as heard], this is not enough to ban or penalize drug consumption as a rule, which in our opinion should be the case. [end recording]

Army Captures ELN Fourth in Command

PA2606044694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 26 Jun 94

[From the "AM/PM" newscast]

[Text] The Army captured (Carlos Arturo Velandia Jagua) in Santa Fe de Bogota on 25 June. He is considered the fourth in command within the Army of National Liberation, ELN.

The guerrilla was at a downtown cafeteria extorting a citizen. Military intelligence files show that he was responsible for a dynamite attack on Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes and was involved in operations in which 56 soldiers and policemen died.

He is considered to be an expert booby trap manufacturer due to training he received in Vietnam.

Conservative Party Leader on Policy Issues

PA2406125794 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Fabio Valencia Cossio, president of the Colombian Conservative Party's National Directorate, by unidentified reporters; place not given—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Valencia, has the Conservative Party taken a position with regard to its possible cooperation with Ernesto Samper's liberal government?

[Valencia] First we want to praise the extraordinary election day activities led by Andres Pastrana on Sunday in which more than 3.5 million votes were secured, within the framework of a big partisan movement that has created a balance of power in the nation. The Conservative Party, as you know, is a traditional party, which is permanently in force, has a hierarchy, and obviously participated very actively, very strongly, and with very good results, through a major partisan movement, during Andres Pastrana's presidential campaign.

The National Directorate will meet today to assess the electoral results and to highlight the work of the Conservative Party. We want to express our appreciation to all the directors, congressmen, deputies, councilmen, and party leaders, in general, because the party truly had an extraordinary and historical day. Within that order of priorities, we are analyzing the positions the president-elect has been presenting.

Obviously, in accordance with that attitude, we are going to make a decision in this regard. For starters, from a democratic point of view, we recognize Ernesto Samper's victory. We wish him success, because what we want is for Colombia to succeed.

[Reporter] As president of the National Directorate of the Conservative party, I would like to say that the Conservative Party provided enormous support at the voting tables. Nevertheless, there are those who pose this question: Will the Conservative Party let itself be absorbed by the democratic force represented by Dr. Pastrana and his supraparty ideology, or will the Conservative Party begin reorganizing its followers as an alternative to power?

[Valencia] I believe that neither Dr. Pastrana nor we are interested in losing the Conservative Party's historical stance. I want to give an explanation to ensure that the country will understand the structural differences between the Liberal and Conservative Parties. The Liberal presidential candidate and the party leadership became confused, while by national convention, we elected Andres Pastrana as part a large supraparty movement.

[Reporter] Dr. Valencia, let me fulfill a commitment we have every day at 0730; we can then continue with this conversation, which is very important because many political sectors are anxiously waiting for it.

[Valencia] Of course, Carlos.

[Reporter] We were talking with Fabio Valencia, the Conservative Party's National Directorate president. He was answering an important question, which I will repeat to Dr. Valencia.

[Reporter] Will the Conservative Party now reassume an alternative-power position or will it continue participating in the New Democratic Force [NFD]?

[Valencia] I believe we must make a distinction at this point. The Conservative Party is a permanent and historic party, with its own hierarchy and legal identity. Out of conviction, we took Andres Pastrana as the supraparty candidate, and we participated as part of the NFD. In the case of the Liberal Party, the candidate and the head of the party were the same person. In our case, we chose our president and a supraparty president, whose participation and national leadership were undisputed. The Conservative Party chose a candidate, but the party's leadership remained with its national directorate, and its legal representation [words indistinct]. As I said before, the structures of the parties are different. The Conservative Party is obviously intact, and it has a clear representation in Congress. I reiterate: We are ready to continue working on behalf of the country and promoting the ideas of change advocated by Pastrana during his campaign.

[Reporter] Would the Conservative Party collaborate with President Samper instead of the NFD, or, vice versa, would Pastrana's followers and the NFD collaborate with Samper instead of the Conservative Party?

[Valencia] There is a very significant circumstance at this point: Andres Pastrana represents half of all Colombians, who chose him for his ideas and leadership. From this angle, no one can deny the significance of the Conservative Party. The Conservative Party, considering the political hierarchy—Pastrana noted it last night—is not in his hands, but in ours, and we are working on this basis.

[Reporter] Therefore, that decision is yours and not Pastrana's. Do you believe that the Conservative Party should participate in the government?

[Valencia] We, together with all the friends of the Conservative Party, are studying the situation. We will hold consultations with all the parliamentarians and will meet with the National Directorate today. We are waiting to see the attitude of President-elect Samper, because he has the first say on this. The ball is in his court.

[Reporter] Consequently, Dr. Valencia, would you be willing to talk to President-elect Ernesto Samper Pizano to define the Conservative Party's possible cooperation, if any, with the next government?

[Valencia] Obviously, as president of the National Directorate I have the authority to make these kinds of contacts and, I believe, they are very important for the country. We have a very positive attitude, and, of course,

we are also very aware of the situation. However, we really want the country to be able to start on the road toward advancement and development, and, hopefully, we will do this as smoothly as possible.

[Reporter] In other words, you do not believe the Colombian Conservative Party should oppose the next government?

[Valencia] I believe this depends totally on the attitude assumed by the president. The president has to study what has happened in the country. Andres Pastrana is really a very important national leader. He managed to convince the entire Conservative Party to back his program and political platform, as well as independent and important sectors from the Liberal Party. I believe the president-elect of the Republic, who already has to think like a head of state, will study this new political situation, the breakdown in Congress, and all of the factors a president must consider to have a good government.

[Reporter] What is the mood within your party on the possibility of assuming the role of the new opposition?

[Valencia] I believe the Conservative Party really cares about Colombia's well-being and is willing to back the good things presented by the government, as well as being willing to criticize the bad things. At this time, however, as I have already stated, it is not up to the Conservative Party to decide whether or not it will participate in the government. This is a privilege of the president-elect. However, we have a positive attitude and the highest level of patriotic will, and, as I told you, we will back the good and criticize the bad.

[Reporter] Before I continue asking questions, we have to congratulate you for the extraordinary amount of Conservative votes—specifically, 471,834 votes—obtained in Antioquia. We also want to ask another question regarding the Conservative Party's immediate actions in Congress. What parliamentary actions will the Conservative Party emphasize?

[Valencia] First, thank you very much for your compliments on the votes received in Antioquia. We have a great team in the region. All of the Conservative Party members worked hard, and we also know a large number of independent liberals voted in our favor. [words indistinct] Antioquia has had experience in changes. We have been changing for the past five years. We started with the Constituent Assembly, and later we got Juan Gomez elected to the governor's post and Luis Alfredo Ramos to the mayor's post. That is why Andres Pastrana's victory in Antioquia was so overwhelming.

Regarding the work to be done in the legislature, we will be calling to a meeting of the Conservative Party bloc. As you know, we have 30 senators and more than 60 representatives. Therefore, we have a very important force in Congress. We are going to work to further the country's best interests. The party has made great advances under Andres Pastrana's leadership within the context of the supraparty movement, and we do not want to squander this great historic opportunity.

[Reporter] From Antioquia, Orlando Carames will ask the next question.

[Carames] Thank you. Dr. Valencia, gubernatorial and mayoral elections will be held in October. Based on the work done by the multipartisan United Antioquia Movement, Governor Juan Gomez and Medellin Mayor Luis Alfredo Ramos were elected in the previous election. Will this experiment be repeated, or will the party go it alone in the upcoming elections, now that it has an autonomous electoral force of more than 471,000 votes?

[Valencia] I believe the situation in Antioquia has to be studied. However, I repeat, I believe Antioquia voted with the supraparty movement because, as you stated, Orlando, the United Antioquia emerged precisely from the convergence of several political forces [words indistinct] liberal and independent sectors, and even from the M/19 [19 April Movement/Democratic Alliance]. This, I believe, gave us very good results. We all want serious, effective leaders who have good management skills. An example of such leaders are Juan Gomez Martinez and Luis Alfredo Ramos. We want the very best for Antioquia.

Ecuador

Labor Leader Killed, Others Wounded in Protests

PA2406201894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1650 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Quito, 24 Jun (EFE)—Quito newspapers published reports today that an Ecuadoran labor leader died on Thursday after being shot during a clash between soldiers and Aztra company employees, who staged a demonstration to protest the firm's privatization. The source added that two employees have disappeared, between two and five are wounded, and about 12 have been arrested.

Aztra sugar refinery union spokesmen say they are holding a Canar electoral tribunal employee hostage and intend to exchange him for the detained workers. The spokesmen say there are minors among the detained persons.

Walter Santos, 54 years old, was shot and killed on the fourth consecutive day of demonstrations by Aztra employees, who are demanding payment of delayed salaries and protesting the sale of the company, which is located approximately 400 km southwest of Quito.

The state-owned National Financial Corporation (CFN) on Wednesday transferred the company to a consortium of Ecuadoran and Colombian businessmen for $100,000, less than 2 percent of the firm's estimated value.

The workers were joined in their demonstrations by residents of La Troncal, a town near the Aztra facilities,

who also confronted the soldiers. The soldiers are in the streets following Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen's declaration of a state of emergency on Tuesday due to a conflict with the Indians.

The CFN sold 98 percent of the sugar refinery's shares for $100,000. The mill supplies 30 percent of the sugar consumed in Ecuador.

Up until March, each Aztra share sold for 750 sucres ($0.40), but unexpectedly, according to stock market sources, they were auctioned on Wednesday for 8.55 sucres each, an act described by the workers as "illegal, immoral, and shameful."

Quito Stock Market Director Hector Terneus admitted that "such a broad fluctuation is not normal," but he denied the wrongdoing denounced by workers.

"The transaction was legal because it was in accordance with regulations governing the Ecuadoran stock market and stock exchange," Terneus said, although other reports assert that the state lost approximately $60 million.

Former CFN leader Guillermo Landazuri said the "symbolic" sale proves beyond a doubt "the dishonest manner in which Sixto Duran-Ballen's conservative administration has managed the privatization process" by "discrediting and damaging the image of state companies to lower their prices."

Supreme Court To Decide Agrarian Law Status

PA2506122794 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jun 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[Text] The country will learn the Supreme Court Constitutional Chamber's ruling on the unconstitutionality of the agrarian law dictated by the Court of Constitutional Guarantees in approximately three weeks. Constitutional Chamber Magistrate Hugo Ordonez has asserted that they will expedite the ruling but that this does not mean it will be decided with undue haste.

[Begin Ordonez recording] I would not like to estimate the exact duration of this proceeding because it cannot be predetermined. We have to see if it takes the regular course. However, I surmise—and I do so only to answer the question you say currently concerns the country—that the matter could be resolved in approximately three weeks. [end recording]

Ordonez stated that the verdict will not depend on the magistrates' political leanings but instead on whether the law adheres to the Constitution.

No Consensus Reached on Special Congress

PA2606232894 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jun 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[Text] There is still no consensus on the proposed special congress to interpret the Constitution and decide whether a popular consultation on constitutional reforms should be held.

Maria Eugenia Lima, deputy for Chimborazo, said that the 52 signatures needed to make the special congress official have not yet been obtained.

[Begin Lima recording] One serious problem is that [words indistinct], the required 52 signatures have not been obtained, even counting the opposition parties and the one that made the proposal. Anyway, the government has made several mistakes by sending us proposals that cause a social commotion and aggravate the country's problems. I think this mechanism itself guarantees that problems will not be solved. [end recording]

Lima blames Congress President Samuel Brettini for the Congress' paralysis. Lima added that the people are eagerly awaiting 10 August, when Brettini will be replaced.

Paraguay

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Arrives for Urupabol

PY2406181394 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The Uruguayan, Paraguayan, and Bolivian foreign ministers will relaunch Urupabol [Permanent Joint Commission of Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia]. This organization will attempt to improve communications and commodity outlets through regional rivers and highways.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu Bonilla has arrived in Paraguay. He will participate in a ceremony to relaunch Urupabol, an organization made up of Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia that was dissolved in 1982 because it was described as being unnecessary.

[Begin Abreu recording, in progress] ...a cooperation agreement that existed a few years ago has been revamped in the area, and is being implemented under Paraguay's pro tempore secretariat...[end recording, in progress]

An effort now will be made for the three countries to cooperate in the improvement of communications and transportation of commodities through the Paraguay-Parana waterway and the Transchaco Highway. Uruguay will offer its port services.

The Bolivian foreign minister will arrive at 1430 today. Urupabol will serve as a Common Market of the South, Mercosur, bridge for Bolivia, which is an Andean Pact member.

The three countries' foreign ministers will meet at 1630 today and will sign an agreement at noon on 25 June.

During the Uruguayan foreign minister's visit to our country, an agreement on returning stolen motor vehicles will be signed. Paraguay already has signed this type of agreement with other South American countries.

Revenues Under Secretary, Others Appointed

PY2506010894 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Jun 94 p 12

[Excerpt] During the swearing-in ceremony of newly appointed Revenues Under Secretary Oscar Lopez Silvero, Finance Minister Crispiniano Sandoval said: "We need greater determination to combat tax evasion and smuggling. The Finance Ministry needs to earn the respect of society. We are collecting more but this is not enough. We have several commitments with the IMF that have yet to be accomplished." Lopez Silvero replaces Carlos Sosa Jovellanos, who resigned yesterday.

Several other replacements were announced through an executive branch decree. The most surprising one was that of Revenues Department Director Inocencio Davalos. He will be replaced by Castor Acosta.

Sandoval said the executive branch and the Finance Ministry are concerned about the Revenues Department performance compared to the progress by the Customs Directorate and the Collection Department (in charge of medium and small contributors). [passage omitted]

General Reproaches Military Critics

PY2506023494 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] General Juan Evaristo Gonzalez Maldonado, the Military Supreme Court president, has noted that there are newspapers, groups, and people who unceasingly and "viciously" attack the Armed Forces.

Gonzalez said that the tasks carried out by the Armed Forces are not fully understood, "perhaps because of ignorance, or maybe through malice."

During the main ceremony to mark Military Courts Day, Gonzalez stressed: "The task carried out by the Armed Forces is not always fully understood, perhaps because of ignorance, or maybe through malice. Therefore, some people, groups, and newspapers are unceasingly attacking—more than often viciously—the Armed Forces."

In his speech the general reproached critics of the Armed Forces for not admitting or remembering that the Armed Forces, like the entire country, are evolving "due to the political, economic, and social transition."

In another passage of his speech, Gen. Juan Evaristo Gonzalez Maldonado emphasized that the military echelons, "subordinated to the established power through the chain of command, consciously and effectively observe allegiance to their commander in chief and president of the Republic, engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy."

Incorruptible Guardians

Gonzalez noted that the Armed Forces "are incorruptible guardians of our fatherland's most precious assets, that is, its sovereignty, its border security, and above all its unrestricted fulfillment of the constitutional provision that guarantees to all citizens freedom, democracy, and the normal development of the established institutions."

The general also reported on the establishment and development of military courts in our country.

Gonzalez also emphasized that the Military Supreme Court fulfills a specific duty aimed at safeguarding the military coexistence codes.

In this regard Gonzalez explained that there is a special commission involved in preparing bills to adjust the Military Supreme Court's activities to constitutional provisions.

Peru

Fujimori: Call for Renewed U.S. Air Support 'Positive'

PY2506034594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0303 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Lima 24 Jun (EFE)—Today, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori called U.S. President Bill Clinton's proposal to Congress that U.S. support to Peru for the detection of drug trafficking from the air be reestablished positive. Fujimori said, however, that "with or without support," Peru is carrying out a firm and constant struggle against drug trafficking.

He recalled that the contribution made by the U.S. AWACS and Orion airplanes with modern equipment for detecting airplanes had been very effective when they were cooperating with the Peruvian Air Force, until May when the U.S. Government decided to withdraw that support.

In a news conference, Fujimori said that with that help, "our airplanes were able to persecute and shoot down" the airplanes of Colombian drug traffickers entering the Peruvian jungle region to pick up the basic cocaine paste gathered by drug traffickers. Fujimori added that the U.S. radar installed in the jungle region, which was also deactivated, was not effective as it is obsolete equipment used during World War II.

He said that the reestablishment of the aid for detecting the airplanes of drug traffickers would be a positive step. He reiterated that the struggle against drug trafficking is

an international problem, which is the responsibility of drug producing and consuming countries.

Law Penalizing Poppy Growing Goes Into Effect

PY2406221194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1518 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Lima, 24 Jun (EFE)—A law establishing prison sentences of eight to 15 years for people who grow heroin-producing poppies went into effect in Peru today.

The law was approved by Congress on 22 June. It confirms the sentences included in the original bill.

The Peruvian penal code now includes the "crime of growing, promoting, assisting, or financing" the planting of poppy plantations used for making opium or heroin. [passage omitted]

Investigation of Released SL Leaders Ordered

PY2406151094 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 14 Jun 94 p A6

[Excerpts] Supreme Court President Luis Serpa Segura reported that on 13 June, the Supreme Court ordered an investigation into the release of three Shining Path [SL] leaders. This investigation is to be conducted by the Office for Judicial Overview. Serpa explained that "Office for Judicial Overview chief Carlos Giusti Acuna has been duly informed. We hope a preliminary report will be submitted sometime this week."

A television report, disclosed a few days ago, said that the judicial branch ordered Luis Alberto Arana Franco, also known as "Abel;" Juan Carlos Rios Fernandez, also known as "Norman;" and Monica Feria Tinta, all of whom are SL leaders, released from jail.

It was learned that Luis Alberto Arana Franco, also known as "Comrade Abel," a SL leader in charge of the logistics apparatus that operated at the Cesar Vallejo academy, is on parole. On 13 June, Daniel Espichan, special prosecutor for terrorist crimes, said Arana Franco's sentence was commuted because he helped disrupt important SL groups. Espichan added that Arana Franco continues to supply information to antisubversive forces. He explained that after he finishes testifying, Arana Franco will be given a new identity and will leave the country with his family.

Those who resort to the "repentance" law can be exempted from prosecution and punishment; they can change their identities and leave the country with a small amount of money whenever it is approved by a small committee that works in utmost secrecy.

Serpa stated that so far, several of those who resorted to the "repentance" law have been granted new identities because several SL members were arrested through their testimony. He added that all of them have been allotted money until they get jobs.

Juan Carlos Rios Fernandez and Jesus Monica Feria Tinta [name as published], as well as 27 other terrorists who were released by the courts, are in a different situation because requests were submitted to the Supreme Court to nullify their sentences. Serpa stated: "These judges are obviously biased." He explained that some members of faceless courts are reportedly being subjected to "pressure" or to accept "bribes." [passage omitted]

So far the faceless courts have sentenced only two or three and absolved the rest.

Carlos Blanco, president of the congressional Human Rights Committee, has demanded that the Office for Judicial Overview conduct an exhaustive investigation. Blanco believes, nevertheless, that this situation resulted from a misinterpretation of the repentance law.

Moreover, Justice Committee President Cesar Fernandez (NM) [New Majority] will submit a bill to close the "legal loopholes" in the antiterrorist law that have allowed the release of SL leaders. Fernandez Arce has demanded drastic punishment for those judges responsible for this release.

Fernandez Arce specifically requested that the special prosecutor for terrorist crimes be duly informed about the court rulings so he can appeal these decisions. Prior to the Attorney General's Office decision, any release ordered by a "faceless court" should be subjected to a Supreme Court review.

Unions Threaten To Radicalize Labor Movement

PY2406203094

[Editorial Report] Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 10 June 94, pages 19 through 21, carries a 1,800-word report by Francisco Mattos who says that sources close to Peruvian unions have reported that in the next few days they will raise further charges of labor rights violations by the Peruvian Government before the International Labor Organization, ILO. The article states that these charges will be added to the 16 charges that labor unions submitted to the Peruvian Government last year.

The report quotes Teodulo Hernandez Valle, secretary general of the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers, CGTP, as saying: "It is the policy of this administration to ignore our rights instead of respecting us as a labor force. This is the reason behind our complaints, which will be submitted not only by Peruvian unions but by foreign unions as well."

The article states that in the last few hours, Labor Minister Augusto Antonioli and two close advisers left for Geneva where this coming weekend Antonioli will try to justify the Peruvian Government position regarding the charges. It states, however, that like last May, he will fail because of the Peruvian Government's refusal to make its labor policy more flexible.

The report says labor leader Juan Luna Rojas, from the CGTP, will be the main union delegate attending the ILO conference. It has yet to be confirmed if Hernandez Valle will attend the ILO conference because, unlike on previous occasions, the government has refused to cover the expenses of the trip. Hernandez Valle adds: "This is only one of many examples of the government's true intention, that is, to crush the rights the workers have achieved through struggle."

After stating that several unions have tried to obtain the necessary funds to finance his trip, Hernandez Valle adds: "In view of this, we have decided to sponsor a national strike on 21 July. Either the government improves its labor policy or the labor movement will adopt more radical measures."

The article quotes CGTP as saying that Hernandez Valle will travel to Geneva to support Luna Rojas's case and exercise the right of rebuttal. If he is unable to attend, Luna Rojas will explain the position of all Peruvian labor unions. Hernandez Valle says: "This time around, it will not be a single voice but the voice of all Peruvian unions." He adds: "If this government abuses the workers, where can we go for help? We will simply resort to all those who may help us change the attitude of dictatorship towards labor."

The article states that labor expert Mario Pasco Cosmopolis believes the ILO is not the proper forum to discuss disagreements between the government and labor because it is not empowered to impose sanctions, it can only make recommendations.

The article adds that Mario Pasco does not believe the U.S. House of Representatives will exclude Peru from its preferential tariff list in view of the labor violation charges raised last year before the AFL-CIO. Pasco then explains that before making this decision, "the U.S. Trade Department must prove any violations." He adds that these charges were submitted before the ILO, which falls under the jurisdiction of the United Nations.

The article explains that ILO is the forum where workers, employers, and government officials gather to outline labor policies while the Union Freedom Committee, which is a tripartite forum, is responsible for raising these charges. In view of this, Hernandez del Valle says the Peruvian unions did not request sanctions. He says: "On the contrary, a couple of months ago we requested the nonenforcement of sanctions hoping the government will change its antilabor policy."

The report states that 16 charges have been raised against Peru which government officials believe are unjustified. It adds that very little is known about the new labor violation charges to be submitted this week in Geneva.

The article quotes government sources saying that there is willingness to resolve these problems, but it requires more understanding from workers.

The article provides a brief example of the charges raised by the workers last year, among which are violations of the right to join unions, collective bargaining agreements, and the right to strike. It adds that the detractors of the AFL-CIO are surprised that this U.S. organization has been chosen to defend Peruvian labor demands: Peruvian Government officials have stated that while Peru recognizes 66 ILO agreements, the U.S. Government recognizes only 11.

Peruvian Government officials believe the AFL-CIO proposal will not prosper, that the issue will be resolved in two months, and that no sanctions will be enforced against Peru. The article concludes with a quote by Union Leader Teodulo Hernandez who states: "There are more injustices against workers than against anyone else in this country. The government is the main perpetrator of these offenses and the one which abuses its powers to curtail our rights. We will no longer tolerate this. The time to fight has come because threats against us and other union leaders continue."

Venezuela

Congress Probes Finance Minister's Performance

PA2406145694 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by Cecilia Callone]

[Text] Congress is questioning Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez about his performance during the nation's current financial crisis.

A vote of censure on the finance minister's performance could be taken today during the congressional session since a majority of legislators are criticizing Sosa, as well as the other cabinet ministers, for not having declared a state of financial emergency.

According to Pedro Tabata Guzman, deputy head of the Democratic Action bloc, there will soon be a need to implement exchange controls.

Deputy Tabata thus responded to questions regarding this Wednesday's increase in the value of the U.S. dollar.

[Begin recording] [Tabata, in progress] ...not just that measure will be recommended. I believe we will also have to recommend importation controls, but only on certain goods. Without a doubt, we will need to implement currency exchange controls. [end recording]

Deputy Tabata Guzman also pointed out that the special commission appointed to evaluate the summons of Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez will also summon Development Minister Alberto Poletto and Luis Carlos Palacios, Central Office of Coordination and Planning chief.

Deputy Gustavo Tarre Briceno, president of the Chamber of Deputies Finance Commission, believes the

increase in the value of the U.S. dollar is a result of the prevailing distrust in the market.

[Begin recording] [Tarre Briceno, in progress] ...the manner in which the intervention process was handled, the absence of a genuine and coherent economic program, and inadequate coordination between public officials result in significant distrust. All of this leads to a distrust in the banking system, which leads to withdrawals by account holders, who, not trusting anyone, prefer to purchase more U.S. dollars. That is what has caused the price of the U.S. dollar to exceed the 200 bolivares mark, and the logical consequence of all of this is more inflation. [end recording]

In this respect, Deputy Tarre Briceno stressed that it is very likely the inflation rate will reach three digits.

Caldera To Reveal Economic, Fiscal Measures 1 Jul

PA2706002394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0247 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Caracas, 25 Jun (NOTIMEX)—On 1 July, President Rafael Caldera will unveil in Caracas new economic measures with which he seeks to overcome the country's economic and financial crisis, an official source said today. Pompeyo Marquez, special minister and presidential adviser, said in Maracay, an industrial city 80 km west of Caracas, that the plan will focus in particular on social programs and reactivating production.

To that effect, Marquez said the measures will cover three major areas: stockpiles—to prevent hoarding; employment; and training. The measures are intended to raise Venezuelans' standard of living, although most problems will not be totally resolved, Marquez noted.

Venezuelans are anxious following the collapse of seven banks and last week's 8.65 percent devaluation of the bolivar to the level of 210 bolivares to the dollar. Local economists have said that Caldera is leaning toward exchange rate controls, a measure the economy minister opposes. Marquez said he supports controls on prices and imports because those measures will stamp out speculation and capital flight.

Minister Does Not Rule Out Exchange Controls

PA2406153594 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jun 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Finance Minister Julio Sosa has not discounted the possibility of placing controls on foreign exchange. Sosa said he does not favor controls, but the government is prepared to adopt any necessary measures. The minister made these statements during a news conference he held after being questioned by the Chamber of Deputies.

[Begin Sosa recording] Such matters are being reviewed by the president at cabinet meetings. What I said was that when this kind of measure becomes necessary, it must be considered. What is happening, however, is that we are hoping that this will not become necessary. [end recording]

The questioning took place as planned; that is, there were four rounds of questions. A total of 24 congressmen took the floor. At the session, Minister Sosa reviewed important aspects of the current economic and financial situation in the country. He said the government does not favor nationalizing the banks, but it has not ruled out the possibility. Referring to the eight financial institutions in which the government has intervened, the minister said that intervention boards have 30 days to decide whether these banks should be liquidated or restructured. He also spoke about privatization processes, noting that they are necessary to keep the state from suffering huge losses.

He said he does not favor the privatizing of Venezuelan Petroleum or the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana.

He also discussed the disparity between assets and liabilities. He noted that the Central Bank of Venezuela must find a way to trim the shortfalls. The minister said nonrestructured foreign debt has risen to 250 billion bolivares, adding that this has produced domestic outlays of approximately 150 billion bolivares.

After the session, "Union Radio News" consulted the various parliamentary factions to learn what their position would be on a censure vote. The social Christian Party and Democratic Action were cautious in their responses. They said they will wait until President Rafael Caldera speaks about this vote. Radical Cause, however, is maintaining its position in favor of a censure vote.

BCV President Opposes Currency Controls

PA2506042294 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 Jun 94 pp 2-4

[Text] BCV [Central Bank of Venezuela] President Antonio Casas Gonzalez asserted last night that the government will avoid controlling foreign exchanges "as much as possible" and will maintain the current currency distribution mechanism.

We are monitoring the market closely because we want to avoid controlling foreign exchanges as much as possible, the BCV president said at the Miraflores Palace.

Casas Gonzalez presided over a special BCV directorate meeting last night. He later went to the Miraflores Palace and met with President Rafael Caldera and Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez for almost two hours.

We are following the same foreign exchange system we have used in the past. It is difficult to combat speculation in a situation of distrust such as the current situation. There are rumors about situations that do not exist and there is apprehension that the price of the dollar will rise. However, the mechanism has worked and we believe it will continue to work. We are constantly observing the

market. You must have noticed that today, the bolivar to dollar exchange rate reached almost 200 bolivares to the dollar but it later dropped to 192 bolivares to the dollar. Thus, the mechanism is working, Casas Gonzalez stated.

However, he warned that the situation could get difficult if the campaign of rumors to discredit the banks, the issues regarding Congress, the votes of censure, and things of this type continue. Such actions create distrust and the system cannot operate without trust, Casas Gonzalez added.

[Reporter] Could an economic emergency be declared?

[Casas] No, I don't think so.

[Reporter] Do the BCV and the government agree on the monetary policy? The government stated that it is not responsible for those decisions.

[Casas] It is our responsibility, but we have agreed up to now.

Protests Against High Cost of Living Continue

PA2506004794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1835 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Caracas, 24 Jun (EFE)— The serious economic, political, and social situation in Venezuela has triggered new waves of protests in several cities in the country during the past few days.

The riots in Bejuma, Miranda, and Montalban, Carabobo State, 211 km from Caracas, resulted in three injuries, a fire at a commercial warehouse, and several attempts to loot shops. Citizens clashed with police during the "Day For Hunger" [Jornada por el Hambre] held on Wednesday. The event, which was to protest the high cost of living, was organized by the Federation of Consumer Associations in Montalban.

The main cause of the people's unrest is price speculation on staple goods and store hoarding. As a result of the protests over the last few days, the Chamber of Deputies approved an agreement that calls upon the people and the government to join efforts to find effective solutions to the deterioration in family budgets and to control speculation.

The speculative wave has prompted the government to look for agreements with merchants on consumer prices. Several parliamentarians, however, have demanded that the Executive Branch implement a "war economy" to control prices directly.

Lorenzo Tovar, the president of the Consumer Defense and Education Institute (IDEC) said that excessive and uncontrolled price increases in several stores is a crime. Tovar recommended that the government find a solution to price speculation in the country because it has turned into a state problem.

Interior Minister: Violence Not Tolerated

PA2506045394 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report by Cecilia Pachano; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom has asserted that the government will not allow violence to seize the country. He, thus, concurred with the president who said violence will be vigorously repressed throughout the country.

[Begin Escobar recording] He is bound by the Constitution and the laws of the country to guarantee public order and he is willing to comply with this obligation. I, as interior minister and as a result of my interpretation of the president's decision to implement this policy, am willing to take all necessary measures to stop violence from seizing the country. [end recording]

The interior minister also stated that national authorities recognize the tricks used by foreigners to illegally enter the country in the past. He added that the government would not allow such a situation to continue and he categorically stated that he was re ring to Haitians and any other foreigners.

President: Army Prepared To Repress Violence

PA2406173694 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1526 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Speech by President Rafael Caldera on the occasion of Army Day from Paseo Carabobo in Caracas—live]

[Text] The country's present situation dictates that I add a few words to the congratulatory message I sent today, on occasion of the anniversary of the immortal battle of Carabobo, to the Army commander, officers, junior officers, military academy cadets, enlisted troops, and civilian personnel working for the glorious Venezuelan Armed Forces, which today commemorates its special day. Under these circumstances, I must say that I am determined to halt all morbid and criminal attempts to ruin our national currency, which bears the magnificent name of Bolivar, as well as all attempts to deplete our operational reserves. The national government is determined to adopt all necessary measures and quite clearly states that whatever situation the country may face, we have the resources required to meet our international obligations and to satisfy the country's most basic needs.

The current situation has circumstantial causes, among which we can mention the distrust that has arisen as a result of despicable rumors that have been intentionally disseminated and the speculators who have no qualms about resorting to any measure for personal gain. We are facing difficult times, but the country understands this and knows that we will overcome it with the support of all Venezuelans.

The fall of our currency has reactivated inflationary pressure that we had practically controlled by limiting the fiscal deficit. If it is true that inflationary pressure is reflected over the price of goods, it is also true that speculation has lead consumers to purchase more goods over and above any inflationary pressure. The national government is determined to utilize any means possible to alleviate the situation of lower income groups my making basic goods accessible and by improving the wages of all public and private sector workers. In that respect, we call for everyone's understanding and support.

I warn those who are determined to foment disturbances that the people repudiate the violence they are promoting. A majority of the population knows that violence solves nothing and only leads to more violence. Those inciters of violence must keep in mind that even if they can obtain the temporary support of some small groups, they will never ensure the total support of a majority of the population. The national government, with the absolute and determined backing of the National Armed Forces, is prepared to repress violence with all the moderation it can muster, but also with the necessary energy. It is our duty to solve the country's predicament under these circumstances, and we are going to do it. Today, at this time and at this place, which reminds us of the battle of Carabobo, I would like to reaffirm my solemn duty to the Venezuelan people. The Republic will not be lost in my hands. [applause]

Suriname

President, Guyana's Jagan Discuss Cooperation

FL2406145094 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 2215 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Suriname and Guyana are working on strengthening their relations and increasing cooperation among them. Suriname's admittance to Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] next month is expected to create possibilities to make these intentions come true. So says the Surinamese president. Meanwhile Guyana's president, Cheddi Jagan, has assured his Dutch counterpart of his country's support for Suriname's request for Caricom membership. President Jagan arrived in Suriname on Monday [20 June] for a four-day official visit. Marion Riedewald reports:

[Begin recording] [Riedewald] President Ronald Venetiaan says the border dispute between Suriname and Guyana should be solved in order to promote collaboration between the two countries. Guyana, 25 years ago, occupied the piece of land which she claims to be hers. The countries are disputing about where the source of the bordering Corantijn River is. The problem originates from the time when Suriname was a colony of the Netherlands and Guyana a colony of England. Holland and England then agreed that the Corantijn River would be the border to Suriname and Guyana, taking the uppper Corantijn as the source of the Corantijn. Now President Ronald Venetiaan suggests international mediation to solve this problem. However, the border dispute should not stand in the way of positive collaboration between the two nations, say the Surinamese president.

During a special address to the National Assembly on Tuesday [21 June], Guyana's president, Cheddi Jagan, said the Corantijn River should not be dividing, but uniting the two countries. He suggested that the parliaments of Suriname and Guyana make laws that enable mutual private investments in the two countries.

[Jagan] Clearly we cannot be satisfied merely with the establishment of democratic institutions. Our democratic institutions, including our parliaments, must function in a manner that puts the welfare of our people at the central point of our purpose.

[Riedewald] Bilateral collaboration is not enough says Jagan. Suriname and Guyana should also work together within regional organizations.

During his four-day visit to Suriname, President Jagan visited the state oil company, the banana company, and (Effebacher) power plants and other production facilities in Suriname. [end recording]